

Israelis demand relaunch of peace process

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Nearly 2,000 Israeli demonstrators late Saturday in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, calling for the peace process to be relaunched and the pullback of the Israeli army from Hebron. In Jerusalem, hundreds of anti-annexation Peace Now sympathisers, demanded the "immediate redeployment" of the Israeli army from Hebron and called for the government to "respect" the accords signed with the Palestinians under the previous Labour-led government. Speakers congratulated Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat on their first meeting Wednesday, but demanded that it be followed up with "concrete measures." The demonstrators, most of whom were young, first held a meeting then marched calmly with torches to the prime minister's residence in the city centre.

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AMMAN SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1996, RABI II, 24, 1417

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Saudis send \$1 million to PLO

RIYADH (AFP) — A Saudi fundraising committee for the Palestinians said Saturday it had sent more than \$1 million to bolster self-rule in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The director of the "People's Committee for Aid to the Palestine Mujahadeen," Abdul Rahim Jamus, said Riyadh sent 3,822 million Saudi riyals (\$1.02 million) to the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO's) Palestine National Fund. The committee gave the PLO around \$4 millions in July. The funds sent to the PLO are deducted from the salaries of around 200,000 Palestinians working in Saudi Arabia, and raised from voluntary contributions from Saudis and foreign residents. The Saudi government announced a year ago that it had given \$100 million to the Palestinian National Authority as its contribution to financing Palestinian self-rule.

Subsidy move led to 35% cut in bread consumption — Kabariti

Prime minister urges new agricultural policy and methods so as to achieve self-reliance

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti said Saturday that consumption of bread had gone down in Jordan by about 35 per cent as a result of the government's measures of changing direct subsidy for wheat to cash payment last month.

The prime minister told a meeting held at the Ministry of Agriculture that consumption in Irbid Governorate went down by an estimated 47 per cent following the rechanneling of subsidy.

The government decided to give direct compensation of JD 1.28 a month per person after increasing the prices of bread instead of continuing direct subsidy.

Mr. Kabariti told the meeting of the Agricultural



Abdul Karim Kabariti

Council attended by ministers of higher education, water and irrigation, industry and trade, supply and agriculture that government

plans would succeed once the country becomes self-reliant. This can be realised by giving due attention to food cultivation with special attention to cereal and legume production, he said.

He said Jordan needs to adopt different agricultural cropping patterns, end traditional agricultural systems, grow more grapes, dates and other cash crops and other kinds of products which can help open new markets abroad.

"We also need to come up with creative ideas for greater efficient use of irrigation water and we should create cooperatives that can provide agricultural equipment and services at reasonable cost," added Mr. Kabariti.

The prime minister also

underlined the need for new and more balanced agricultural policies, agrarian reform schemes and intensified agricultural extension services as Jordan is adopting an open economic market policy.

Referring to farmers' indebtedness, he said that the government can by no means reward farmers who do not give any consideration to water consumption. But, he added, the government can, through an integrated agricultural policy, support active and successful farmers with more soft loans.

Agriculture Minister Mustafa Shneikat was quoted as saying that the ministry had worked out a

(Continued on page 7)

Regent: Jordan hopes to bolster ties with U.S. at public and private sector levels

Crown Prince meets American official, reaffirms Jordan rejects settling refugees because it would deprive them of their rights

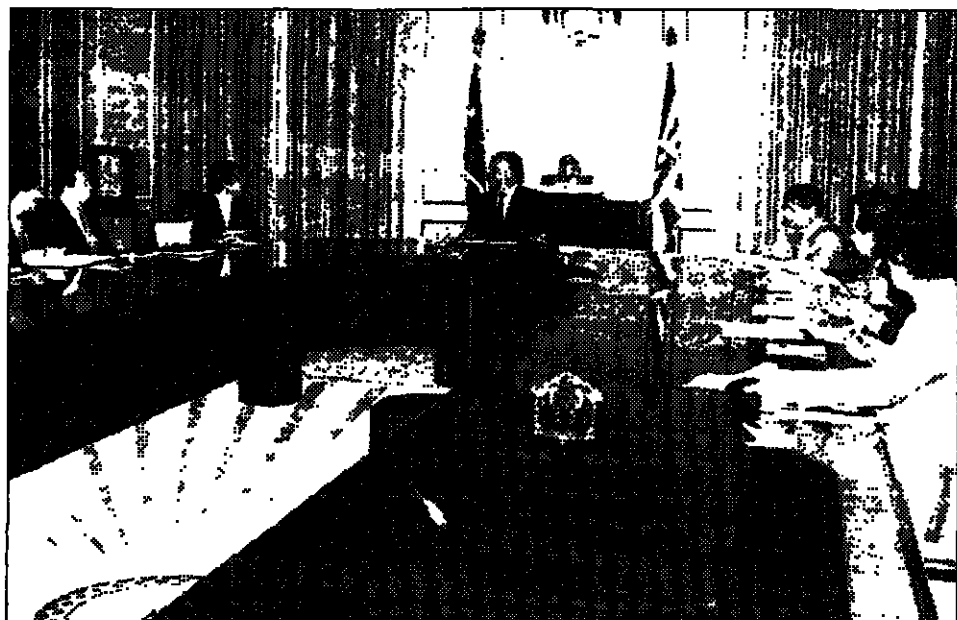
AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said Saturday that Jordan attaches great importance to its relations with the United States and hopes that cooperation between the two sides will be maintained at private sector as well as official levels.

Speaking at a meeting with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Economic, Trade and Agricultural Affairs Joan Spero, the Regent said Jordan was keen on joining international clubs and open up its economy to the world and hoped to be able to present its economic policy to the world.

Referring to the Palestinian refugees, Prince Hassan said that Jordan hopes that the 1997 budget of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) would cater to new programmes creating more jobs that would help the country deal with poverty.

Stressing that Jordan is opposed to the idea of settling refugees in its territory, he said that any moves in this direction would mean compromising the refugees' rights in return and compensation.

He also expressed hope



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Saturday meets U.S. State Department official Joan Spero (Petra photo)

that the proposal for a Middle East International Bank would be consolidated during the Middle East and

Attending the audience were Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh, Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf

Karim Kabariti and later described the discussions as constructive and excellent.

She said that economic and political situations in the Middle East region were discussed. She said her country was looking forward towards further cooperation with Jordan in all fields and in preparing for the Cairo conference.

Ways for promoting bilateral

(Continued on page 7)

\$200 million Eximbank financing deal signed, see page 8

North Africa conference to be held in Cairo and that talks on regional projects on water and the Jordan Rift Valley would be resumed soon.

and Crown Prince's advisers for economic affairs. Earlier Saturday, Mrs. Spero discussed U.S.-Jordanian economic ties with Prime Minister Abdul

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Jordan determined to liberalise its economy and create right investment climate — premier

By Ghalia Abul Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan is determined to liberalise its economy and create the right atmosphere for investment while seeking to consolidate peace and stability in a climate of democracy and justice. Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti on Saturday told a conference entitled "Good Governance for Pri-

vate Sector Development and Investment."

"This meeting was organised in cooperation with the World Bank and several international organisations to encourage common understanding and implement successful integration between public administration and the private sector to counter international and regional challenges and cope with international economic developments,"

Mr. Kabariti said.

In his keynote speech at the four-day conference, Mr. Kabariti added that Jordan had been successful in creating an appropriate climate for foreign investments through giving the private sector a greater role in social and economic development in the quest for more transparency in laws, more use of technology, especially information technology and more say

in privatisation.

Mr. Kabariti said that the age of big government was over. "The challenge facing bureaucracy nowadays is the stimulation of economic activity and helping people adjust to continual environmental modifications," he said.

"We ask our governments in this region to contribute to the development of the

(Continued on page 7)

Iraq hails defeat of plan to have U.N. condemn its moves in north

Only half of 44 U.S. missiles fell near targets

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQ ON SATURDAY hailed the defeat of a British plan for U.N. condemnation of its raid into Kurdistan while the Pentagon admitted only half the cruise missiles fired at southern Iraq hit close to their targets.

"The dirty American is defeated. Iraq imposed its rights in international bodies," the official Al Qadisiya newspaper said. "The United States and Britain suffered a crushing political defeat in the Security Council."

Britain, whose draft was backed by the United States, on Friday abandoned efforts to secure a U.N. condemnation of the Iraqi incursion into a Kurdish "safe haven" after four days of fruitless negotiations.

The draft resolution from the outset faced fierce resistance from the three other permanent U.N. Security Council members with veto power — China, France and Russia.

Russia wanted the draft to criticise "the use of force" in Iraq which would also refer to retaliatory missile strikes by Washington after Iraqi forces and their Kurdish allies seized the northern city of Erbil on Aug. 31.

But the Americans refused to budge, insisting the resolution should only refer to Iraq's forces to ensure they keep out of

EU to press for early implementation of deal agreed under Resolution 660

BRUSSELS (AFP) — The European Union is expected to press for an early implementation of a deal agreed under U.N. Resolution 660, which demands Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait.

The EU's foreign ministers met on Saturday in Brussels to discuss the situation in the Gulf. They agreed to continue to support the U.N. effort to resolve the crisis peacefully.

The EU also expressed concern over the possibility of a wider conflict in the region. It called for a ceasefire and for all parties to return to the negotiating table.

The EU's position is seen as a key factor in the ongoing negotiations. It is expected to play a significant role in the final resolution of the crisis.

The EU's stance is also influenced by its own interests in the region. It wants to ensure a stable and secure environment for trade and investment.

The EU's efforts are seen as a positive step towards a peaceful resolution of the crisis. It is hoped that the EU's pressure will lead to a faster implementation of the deal.

GCC studies its options after Iraq flare-up

RIYADH (AFP) — Gulf Arab foreign ministers sought here Saturday to limit the potential fallout from U.S. missile attacks on Iraq which were widely viewed in the Gulf as unjustified.

Oman's Foreign Minister Yousef Ben Alawi Abdullah opened the meeting saying the ministers would try to forge a united stand to help "contain the possible negative consequences from the recent events in the region."

He did not elaborate but a Gulf Arab diplomat, who asked not to be named, said Saudi Arabia even asked Washington to stop the attacks for fear they would bolster Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's image among the Arabs.

Gulf Arabs fear a strong Iraq could threaten them again as it did after the 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Despite their antipathy toward Saddam Hussein, Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Oman noticeably failed to applaud the U.S. missile strikes.

Only Kuwait, which was occupied by Iraq from August 1990 to February 1991, expressed "understanding" for the U.S.

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2 officials are retired

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers Saturday decided to retire Ministry of Transport Secretary General Awad Tal and Hijaz Railway Director General Burhan Shreideh with immediate effect.

Christopher urges Israel to take concrete steps for peace

Arafat: Israel threatens peace process

LONDON (Agencies) — Israel must take concrete steps to implement the autonomy accords with the Palestinians and advance the faltering peace process, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Saturday.

He said Wednesday's first meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat "was a very important psychological breakthrough."

"But we would like to see that translated into concrete steps to move forward in

the Oslo (peace) process," Mr. Christopher said in London during a European tour.

"To take one example, I would like to see a substantial easing of the closure, something that is quite likely to happen now that they are meeting and talking together," he said, referring to Israel's closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip imposed in late February.

The crippling blockade was on the agenda for talks with Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy on Sunday morning in London, he

said. Mr. Arafat has described his meeting with Mr. Netanyahu as "positive" but at a conference in Italy on Saturday he warned the Middle East peace process was being threatened by the policies of Israel's new right-wing government.

Mr. Christopher said he believed the meeting had given momentum to the peace process, adding he hoped Mr. Netanyahu now "has a more and more com-

(Continued on page 7)

Turkey presses 'security zone' plan in Iraq, says Kurds may be evacuated

ANKARA (Agencies) — Preparations for Turkey's "security zone" on the Iraqi side of their mutual border have been completed, and Kurdish residents in the zone may be evacuated, Deputy Prime Minister Tansu Ciller said here Saturday.

Mrs. Ciller, who is also foreign minister, said all the measures necessary for setting up the zone, which Turkey announced Thursday, have been taken, and Ankara may "partially evacuate" Kurd-inhabited areas inside it.

"Turkey is determined to protect its borders" from attack by the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), which has been fighting for a Kurdish state in southeastern Turkey since 1984. The PKK has set up rear bases in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq.

Mrs. Ciller also pledged to protect northern Iraq's Turcomans, estimated at 400,000, whom she said had been attacked since the Iraqi army's incursion into

Iraqi Kurdistan last week. Iraq's Turcomans, who have close ethnic, religious and linguistic ties with Turkey, are the third largest ethnic group in northern Iraq after the Kurds and the Arabs.

Iraqi troops and the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) seized the city of Erbil last weekend from the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

Egypt and the Arab League expressed worries over Turkey's intentions.

"The Turkish movement in northern Iraq raises questions and we wish the Turkish government would explain the situation," said Esmat Abdul Meguid, secretary-general of the Cairo-based Arab League. "We are disturbed."

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa warned that Turkish troop movements in northern Iraq violated Iraq's sovereignty. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said earlier that Washington

was not opposed to Turkey's creation of a security zone on the border with Iraq as long as it was a temporary measure.

"The Turks have got genuine reasons to be concerned about their borders and the PKK," Mr. Christopher told journalists in London during his tour of Europe.

Iraqi Kurdish villagers meanwhile fled their remote settlements along the Turkish border on foot and in vehicles in fear of a Turkish army incursion, witnesses said.

Scores of refugees were on the move from the area around Banek, about 30 kilometres from the main Iraqi border town of Zakho, shutting their belongings any way they could to the relative safety of valley to the south.

"Every year the Turks raid our village. They cut down our fruit trees and bomb our houses, killing our livestock," said Khane

(Continued on page 7)

Beilin slams Netanyahu for not respecting withdrawal deadline

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A senior Labour opposition official on Saturday attacked Israel's right-wing government for not respecting a deadline for a redeployment of troops in the Palestinian territories.

Yossi Beilin, the minister in charge of the peace process in the former Labour government, said Israel's failure to honour a September 7 deadline agreed in 1995 autonomy accords was "serious."

"We were formally committed to proceed with a new redeployment by Sept. 7. It is serious that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has not respected this promise," Mr. Beilin told Israel Radio.

"The head of the government instead chose to meet the president of the Palestinian (National) Authority (Yasser Arafat). That is a good thing in itself, but it would have been much more important to carry out the redeployment," he added.

"Netanyahu is fooling himself if he believes he can make peace with the Palestinians by stopping

them from creating their own state. This illusion might well cost us dear," Mr. Beilin said.

Likud leader Mr. Netanyahu held his first face-to-face meeting with Mr. Arafat this week since defeating former Labour prime minister and peace architect Shimon Peres in May 29 polls.

Since he took office Mr. Netanyahu has consistently ruled out the possibility of a future Palestinian state.

The autonomy accords signed in Washington in September last year called for the Israeli army to carry out its withdrawal from the Palestinian territories after it had redeployed from all the main towns in the territories.

The first phase of this redeployment was due to be completed six months after the first meeting of the elected Palestinian legislative council on May 7.

The second phase is due to be completed by March 7, 1997, and the third phase on Sept. 7 next year. The scope of the redeployment was not specified in the accords and left for negoti-

ation.

Israel has withdrawn from all the main towns in the West Bank with the exception of Hebron.

A redeployment from Hebron, where 450 militant Jewish settlers live among 120,000 Palestinians, was scheduled to take place on March 24 but postponed after a series of militant suicide bombings in Israel.

Mr. Netanyahu has pledged to honour the accord to withdraw from the town, but he is seeking to alter the terms of the partial pullout.

Some 200 young Palestinians on Saturday held a demonstration against Mr. Netanyahu's Jewish settlement policy near the Gaza Strip settlement of Netzarim.

The protesters, who carried placards saying "leave our territory" and "settlement is a time-bomb," were kept apart from Israeli soldiers guarding Netzarim by a cordon of Palestinian police.

Mr. Netanyahu's government has pledged to increase settlements in the Palestinian territories.



REGENT VISITS ARMY UNITS: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, accompanied by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Abdul Hafez Mirai, on Saturday visited several army units and formations of the Fourth Royal Armoured Division. The Regent was briefed on the activities and training programmes of the unit. The Crown Prince conveyed to the troops the greetings of His Majesty King Hussein and thanked them for their efforts to achieve the best levels of training (Armed Forces photo)

EU insists on calling on PLO at Orient House in Arab Jerusalem

TRALEE, Ireland (R) — Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring said on Saturday that a European Union (EU) delegation wanted to visit the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in East Jerusalem, despite strenuous opposition from Israel.

Mr. Spring told reporters during an informal foreign ministers' meeting that an EU "troika" of Ireland, the Netherlands and Italy wanted to abide by an earlier EU decision to visit the PLO at "The City's Orient House."

"I certainly feel we should stick by the...decision," Mr. Spring said. "We want to make a contribution to the Middle East peace process and it is important that we keep a balance in our relations with the Israeli government and the Palestinian National Authority."

Irish officials suggested that if the Israeli government tried to prevent the visit, the fact-finding mission to Israel could be cancelled.

"If it's not the Orient

House, there is no point in going," one official said.

Mr. Spring's comments followed a visit by Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy to Dublin in which he had urged Ireland, the current EU president, not to go ahead with the Orient House trip.

No date has yet been set for the visit to Israel.

Mr. Levy said on Friday he understood from his meetings in Dublin that the EU would not send any delegations to the Orient House, which, he also said,

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat had agreed to close.

Israel regards foreign visits to the Orient House as supporting Palestinian demands to make East Jerusalem the capital of a future Palestinian state.

Mr. Spring has said that he wants the informal foreign ministers meeting being held in his home region to focus on ways the EU can further the Middle East peace process.

Afghanistan rivals claim gains against each other

KABUL (R) — The Afghan government said on Saturday its forces had captured a strategic hill and five posts southwest of Kabul in a pre-dawn attack against Taleban militia and had also offered peace talks to the rebels.

Taleban sources in neighbouring Pakistan confirmed heavy fighting in the area, including artillery duels and bombing by government jets, but denied the advance reported by a government spokesman in Kabul.

A government spokesman, Amrullah, told reporters that the government forces had captured five important mountain peaks near the Taleban-held Maidan Shahr town, southwest of Kabul.

"Sher Ali mountain top, overlooking Maidan Shahr, came under our control today, after we launched a counter-attack on the Taleban after two days of sporadic clashes," he said.

The Taleban, entrenched in hills south of Kabul for the past years, have sworn to oust President Burhanuddin Rabbani and impose strict Islamic rule throughout Afghanistan.

Mr. Amrullah said the government was ready to negotiate peace with Taleban at any time. "When we talk about negotiations, it is not an indication of weakness," he said. "We are able to defend our forces and territories."

In turn, Taleban sources said their militia had captured more

territory in Logar province after taking the strategic Azra district there on Friday. There was no independent confirmation of reports from either side.

However, Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's office in Kabul confirmed the fall of Azra, southeast of Kabul, which military analysts say can become a staging post for the Taleban to attack the strategic eastern town of Sarobi and encroach upon the neutrally-administered eastern province of Nangarhar.

A spokesman for Hekmatyar said forces commanded by a neutral council ruling Nangarhar were fighting on the government side against the advancing Taleban forces in the province's Hisarak district. There was no immediate confirmation of this from independent sources.

A Pakistan-based Afghan news service said four pro-government fighters were killed and six wounded when their vehicle struck a landmine in Hisarak district on Saturday.

The Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) service also quoted a Taleban spokesman as saying government forces had "completely failed in the battlefield" in their offensive towards Maidan Shahr and had leaving 20 bodies of their fighters.

Another Taleban spokesman in the southern town of Kandahar, Mullah Mutaqi, said government forces first succeeded

in breaching a militia frontline southwest of Kabul but were later repulsed. The Kabul-Maidan Shahr road was closed on Saturday for the second time this week by renewed fighting, Mr. Amrullah said.

"Now there is no fighting in the western territory of Kabul province, the fighting is in Maidan Shahr out of Kabul province," he said.

He said government forces bombarded Taleban positions at Maidan Shahr and Azra.

Sarobi has long been a stronghold of Mr. Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami party. But Taleban advances against Hezb-e-Islami in neighbouring Pakia province last month prompted fears that it might be the next target of the powerful militia, which controls about half of Afghanistan. Mr. Amrullah said on Thursday that the Taleban seemed to be trying to intensify fighting around Kabul to gain ground before international efforts to bring peace to the war-torn country could make much progress.

The Taleban emerged in 1994 as a new force led by Muslim religious students, capturing the southern city of Kandahar and vowing to sweep away rebel groups, which had fought Soviet occupation from 1979 to 1989. It reached the gates of Kabul in February 1995, dislodging Mr. Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami from its bases south of the city.

Call for private museums sparks heated debate in land of pharaohs

CAIRO (AFP) — A proposal by businessmen to set up private museums has triggered a heated debate in Egypt, with critics fearing a privatisation of the pharaohs' treasures.

They warn it could lead to selling off the Sphinx, the Pyramids and even the Nile to the highest bidder.

"Antiquities belong to the nation and should remain under the control of the state, which alone can guarantee their protection," the secretary general of the supreme council of antiquities, Abdul Halim Nureddin, told AFP.

Mr. Nureddin brushed off any suggestion to privatise antiquities, acknowledging however that those behind the idea had in fact suggested that "ancient arti-

facts already on display remain under state ownership."

After a rash of nationalisation in the aftermath of the 1952 revolution which ousted the monarchy, Egypt launched a nationwide privatisation campaign five years ago to sell some of its key industries.

Emboldened by such measures, businessmen began to propose the creation of private museums in tourist resorts which they control in Hurgada and Sharm Al Sheikh, on the Red Sea.

"We want to help the state with the burden of preserving our national heritage. The authorities don't have the necessary means to set up modern museums and this is where we could step in," said Amr Hussein Zaki.

Mr. Zaki, who spearheads plans to privatise Egypt's heritage, owns a plot of land near the Red Sea where he hopes to set up a private museum to display some of the country's treasures.

"We are suggesting that the government hands us the concession for antiquities in the museums which we will set up. In return, we will give them 40 per cent of our profits," Mr. Zaki said.

He also stressed that entry fees to private museums would be fixed in dollars unlike state-run museums, where entrance fees are in Egyptian pounds. "The promotion of tourism demands that we go after tourists," he said.

"So what harm is there if

Ramses II is brought to the Red Sea? At least he won't have to suffer from pollution," Mr. Zaki said, in reference to a statue of one of ancient Egypt's best-known pharaohs.

For Neemat Ahmad Fuad, author and professor at Cairo University, businessmen should build museums and donate them to the state "if they are really motivated by national feelings."

Known for her battles to protect Egypt's national heritage, she has won a legal battle to cancel an exhibition of Egyptian antiquities in Japan and the United States on the grounds of a lack of security.

"I am convinced that if the Sphinx and the Pyramids were not so huge, they

would have been on sale in American supermarkets, gift-wrapped and all," Ms. Fuad said.

She slammed the government, accusing it of squandering its income from archaeological sites. "The least they could do is protect our history and give us some pride," Ms. Fuad said.

According to official statistics, 39,000 pieces of antiquities spanning several periods, including 4,000 monumental pieces, are kept in public basements or warehouses because of a lack of exhibition halls.

Egypt boasts 28 museums, all state-owned, which house antiquities that trace its history to nearly 4,000 years B.C.

JORDAN TELEVISION

PROGRAMME TWO

15:05.....Cartoon — The Mask

15:30.....Bush School

15:45.....Mac and Muley

16:20.....Italian Soccer

17:00.....News Flash

17:02.....Sciences Cartoon

17:15.....La Vie Devant Moi

17:30.....Game Show, Qui Est Qui

18:00.....Magazine — La Marche Du Siecle/Part One

19:00.....Le Journal

19:15.....Magazine — Sports Et Musique

19:30.....New Headlines

19:35.....DNC — The Right to Learn

20:00.....American Chart Show

20:45.....Tennis — U.S. Open (live)

PRAYER TIMES

04:51.....Fajr

06:10.....(Sunrise) Duha

12:34.....Dhuhr

16:07.....Asr

18:57.....Maghreb

20:16.....Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swefieh, Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622266

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures are expected to drop significantly becoming 4-5 degree centigrade below average. So, it will be fine during the day and relatively cool at night with winds westerly to northwesterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min/Max. temp. Amman.....16/26

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Anglican Church Tel. 652826

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armanan International Church Tel. 652526

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654952

Church of Nazarene Tel. 675691

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 311295

English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:

Dr. Ghaleb Zawalidh.....736011

Dr. Jihad Sammour.....765018

Dr. Hisham Kan'an.....790286

Dr. Khalid Asfour.....666873

Firas pharmacy.....661912

Ferdows pharmacy.....778336

Al Asena pharmacy.....637055

Nairukh pharmacy.....623672

Al Salam pharmacy.....636730

Yacoub pharmacy.....644945

Shmeisani pharmacy.....637660

Najib pharmacy.....847632

IRBID:

Dr. Mazin Abu Bakir.....276852

Al Quds pharmacy.....(—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Akram Haddad.....985550

Khalidh pharmacy.....985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre.....637111

Civil Defence Department.....661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue.....630341

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

09:30.....Jeddah (RJ)

09:55.....Lamaca (RJ)

10:05.....Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)

10:10.....Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

10:20.....Beirut (RJ)

10:50.....Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

16:05.....New York (RJ)

16:55.....Amsterdam, Brussels (RJ)

18:00.....Paris (RJ)

18:25.....Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)

18:50.....London (RJ)

19:15.....Athens (RJ)

19:25.....Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)

19:30.....Madrid, Geneva (RJ)

19:45.....Frankfurt (RJ)

20:25.....Rome, Tunis (RJ)

20:30.....Tunis (RJ)

20:40.....Vienna (RJ)

01:10.....Cairo (RJ)

Other Flights

06:30.....Tel Aviv (LY)

12:30.....Doha (Q7)

13:40.....Bahrain (GF)

14:30.....Moscow (SU)

16:30.....Dubai (EK)

20:35.....Cairo (MS)

21:10.....Beirut (ME)

22:15.....London, Beirut (BA)

23:20.....Istanbul (TK)

23:30.....Athens (OA)

01:20.....Amsterdam, Beirut (KL)

02:30.....Belgrade (GU)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

06:35.....Beirut (RJ)

09:30.....Frankfurt (RJ)

12:00.....Vienna (RJ)

12:00.....Tunis (RJ)

12:15.....Rome (RJ)

12:15.....Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)

12:30.....Amsterdam, New York (RJ)

13:20.....Athens (RJ)

13:25.....London (RJ)

21:10.....Cairo (RJ)

21:20.....New Delhi (RJ)

21:20.....Jeddah (RJ)

21:45.....Damascus (RJ)

22:20.....Abu Dhabi Dubai (RJ)

22:50.....Singapore (Q7)

22:50.....Baghdad (RJ)

23:00.....Abu Dhabi, Jakarta (add) (RJ)

23:45.....Sanua (RJ)

Other Flights

06:40.....London (KJ)

07:25.....Tel Aviv (LY)

08:45.....Beirut (ME)

09:15.....London (BA)

13:30.....Istanbul, Athens (Q7)

14:30.....Doha (GF)

16:05.....Moscow (SU)

17:30.....Dubai (EK)

02:30.....Amsterdam (KL)

03:30.....Belgrade (GU)

04:00.....Athens (OA)

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08153200-5, where it should always be verified. Information on other flights can be supplied on

06:00.....Istanbul (TK)

07:45.....Beirut, London (BA)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights

10:00 Amman (arriving at Marka Airport from QAIA) (RW)

20:30.....Aqaba (RW)

HAJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman — 8:00 a.m. every Monday

Arr. Damascus — 5:00 p.m. every Monday

Dep. Damascus — 7:30 a.m. every Sunday

Arr. Amman — 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple.....700/500

Banana.....600/600

Banana (mukhammar).....520/520

Banana (imported).....850/600

Carrot.....160/90

Cauliflower.....400/250

Cucumber (large).....240/140

Cucumber (small).....420/250

Eggplant.....220/150

Fig.....340/240

Garlic.....650/400

Grapes.....400/250

Lemon.....520/400

Marrow (large).....250/150

Marrow (small).....450/300

Mulukhiyah.....110/70

Onion (dry).....150/90

Okra.....800/500

Pea.....580/400

Peach.....850/600

Pepper (hot).....340/200

Pepper (sweet).....460/260

Potato.....350/200

String Bean.....850/600

Sweet melon.....350/200

Tomato.....130/80

Water melon.....200/140

06:00.....Istanbul (TK)

07:45.....Beirut, London (BA)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights

10:00 Amman (arriving at Marka Airport from QAIA) (RW)

20:30.....Aqaba (RW)

HAJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman — 8:00 a.m. every Monday

Arr. Damascus — 5:00 p.m. every Monday

Dep. Damascus — 7:30 a.m. every Sunday

Arr. Amman — 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple.....700/500

Banana.....600/600

Banana (mukhammar).....520/520

Banana (imported).....850/600

Carrot.....160/90

Cauliflower.....400/250

Cucumber (large).....240/140

Cucumber (small).....420/250

Eggplant.....220/150

Fig.....340/240

Garlic.....650/400

Grapes.....400/250

Lemon.....520/400

Marrow (large).....250/150

Marrow (small).....450/300

Mulukhiyah.....110/70

Onion (dry).....150/90

Okra.....800/500

Pea.....580/400

Peach.....850/600

Pepper (hot).....340/200

Pepper (sweet).....460/260

Potato.....350/200

String Bean.....850/600

Sweet melon.....350/200

Tomato.....130/80

Water melon.....200/140

LECTURE

"The Aesthetics Relations between Man and Environment" by George Al Sayegh

at the Fre Cultural Centre, J. Al-Balad, until Sept.

EXHIBITION

Works by art from France, Algeria, Morocco, Egypt, entitled "The Seasons" at the Fre Cultural Centre, J. Al-Balad, until Sept.

Wrought-iron exhibition by Salim Bandalan Zaman (1944-1991), until Sept. 1

Works by Batoua, at Baladna Gallery, Gardens, J. Al-Balad, until Sept.

"Summer '96" exhibition at Darat Al Furat, J. Al-Balad, until Sept.

Iran denies role in attack on Mubarak

TEHRAN — Iran's foreign minister Monday denied any role in the assassination of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Home News

Prince Talal visits Parliament, RSS

AMMAN (Petra) — HRH Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, director of the National Security Council (NSC), Saturday visited Parliament and met speakers of the Senate and the Lower House Ahmad Lawzi and Sa'd Hayel Srouf to discuss issues concerning the work of Parliament.

Prince Talal said he hoped that Parliament will maintain strong working relations with the NSC as well as with the executive authority and its various agencies.

The Prince also Saturday visited the Higher Council for Science and Technology



HRH Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, director of the National Security Council, Saturday reviews cooperative efforts with Royal Scientific Society President Hani Mulki (Petra photo)

(HCST) and the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and met RSS President Hani Mulki who outlined the two institutions' activities especially in socio-economic affairs.

At that meeting is was agreed that the RSS will cooperate with the NSC in conducting research of concern to the public.

Man arrested in conjunction with pregnant sister's death

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Irbid police have apprehended a 30-year-old man in connection with the shooting death of his pregnant sister Thursday in the village of Samma, official sources said Saturday.

The victim, Majidah Ibrahim, 29, who was divorced Thursday by her 60-year-old husband, was allegedly shot twice by her brother M.J., who surrendered to police shortly after the crime was committed.

According to the source, the victim was divorced two years ago, then in 1995 she re-married a man twice her age.

"Majidah had family problems, and the day she was divorced her brother was waiting for her at their family's home. As soon as she entered the house he shot her," the source told the

Jordan Times.

According to the source, the brother was encouraged by his family to kill his sister to "cleanse the family's honour." The source said that the family considered the victim's two divorces shameful.

Another source said that the family might have decided to kill their daughter "because she was mentally ill."

The woman was rushed to Princess Basma Hospital in Irbid but died on the way, the source said.

Police contacted by the Jordan Times Saturday confirmed that a woman was killed and said they were investigating the incident.

Majidah became the tenth woman killed in an alleged crime of honour since the beginning of the year.

She was the second woman to be killed in such a crime since the beginning of this month.

Meanwhile, three people, including a five-year-old child, were killed in three separate road accidents during the weekend, according to Public Security Department (PSD) reports.

In Tafieh, a five-year-old child was struck and killed by a pick-up truck while playing in the street, the PSD report said.

"It identified the toddler as Audai Abdullah. Police blamed the driver of the pick-up for faulty attention while driving.

In the Rashid suburb of Amman, a 39-year-old man was also struck by a vehicle. Police identified the man only as J.S.

In Irbid, an 80-year-old woman identified as Sabha Ahmad, was killed when the car she was riding in lost control and rolled over near Ham intersection, PSD reports stated.

Mayor of Azraq resigns, claims financial burden too great

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Shakib Abu Latif, the mayor of North Azraq said that he resigned not only because he had few funds to maintain his town, with a population of 7,000, but also that his monthly salary of JD 140 was significantly lower than his previous earnings as an attorney.

Mr. Abu Latif, 27, maintains that his decision to run for the 1995 municipality elections, was based on public demand "because they found me to be the most qualified person to manage their business stemming from my legal background."

Mr. Abu Latif sacrificed his former profession in favour of the mayorship, which he began on July 11, 1995.

A mere year later he submitted his resignation.

The municipality's expenditures allegedly drained Mr. Abu Latif's financial resources and pushed him into debt.

"The JD 140 salary I was being allocated as a mayor was not enough to support me nor pay for necessary public relations, and in the end I was in debt," Mr. Abu Latif told the Jordan Times.

However, an official at the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, explained that JD 140 for the office was a fixed salary for municipalities such as Azraq.

"The mayor's salary is set by the cabinet, depending on the municipality's rank and budget," said the ministry official.

Mr. Abu Latif admitted that he was aware of the low wage designated to the office, stressing that the sole reason he ran for office was tribal pressure, but that he did not expect the ensuing debt problems.

"I spoke to the minister [Abdul Razzaq Tubeishat] about my financial problems

but his response was that there was nothing he could do as it [the salary] was legally mandated," Mr. Abu Latif said.

Moreover, he complained of being treated just like an ordinary government employee with no privileges.

But according to the ministry official, mayors are treated just like any regular government employees and they are not entitled to any auxiliary privileges.

In his year of office, Mr. Abu Latif increased the municipality's budget from JD 50,000 to JD103,000. He was able to obtain a JD 90,000 loan to build commercial warehouses. In addition, the municipality bought a new garbage truck to replace an older one.

But Mr. Abu Latif was faced with a wave of opposition by the municipality residents when he tried to implement certain reforms.

One such plan was a proffered bill to enforce licensing of buildings which had previously been operating without such legal documentation; a number, he said, which, by some estimates, accounted for 70 per cent of north Karak buildings.

In addition, Mr. Abu Latif said that he imposed fines on violators who did not cover their cesspools.

"These measures bothered the residents who began to complain about my new measures," Mr. Abu Latif said, but added that this was incidental to his resignation.

"I do not regret my decision. As a matter of fact it is much better for me to go back to my old job, practising law, which can secure me a decent living," he said.

Replacing the retired mayor is his deputy Marwan Fayez Sa'ed, who will preside until municipal elections are held in October, according to ministry officials.

Jordan marks World Literacy Day

AMMAN (Petra) — Today is World Literacy Day, and Jordan is observing this international event having reduced its illiteracy rate to 12 per cent among all age groups.

According to a statement made yesterday by the Ministry of Education, the government intends to bring the rate down further to eight per cent by the end of the century.

Jordan's illiteracy rate was 67.7 per cent in 1961 when literacy centres

were first started in the Kingdom.

The ministry said illiteracy among the 15 to 45 age group dropped to an average of seven per cent during the same period.

According to the ministry, Jordan now has 607 literacy and adult education centres, 544 of them are dedicated to educating women.

In the 1995-96 scholastic year a total of 10,053 people attended these centres which offer free education to adults.

Wastewater treatment plants scrutinised

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Water and Irrigation has started a feasibility study on establishing new wastewater treatment plants and boosting the capacity of existing plants, particularly the Khirbet Al Samra plant which serves the Amman and Zarqa governorates.

Abdul Wahab Matar, head of the ministry's sanitary operations projects, said in a statement Saturday that special focus is on the Khirbet Al Samra plant because it handles nearly 80 per cent of the Kingdom's waste serving an area where nearly 50 per cent of Jordan's population lives.

The Khirbet Al Samra plant, designed to handle 3.068 million cubic metres (mcm) of wastewater daily, has been processing 3.143 mcm in the last two years due to the increases in industrial development, natural

population growth and economic activities, according to Mr. Matar.

He said the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is currently financing a project to cut down the malodorous fumes from the Khirbet Al Samra. He added that this project would be completed by 1997.

At present, Jordan has 14 treatment plants and the ministry is building plants in the Wadi Seer, Fuheis, Mahis, Naour, Wadi Mousa and Jordan Valley.

Mr. Matar said the ministry has concluded agreements with the Jordan Cooperative Organisation and several private sector institutions to use the treated water from the plant for irrigating lands cultivated with animal feed.

Saraiereh encourages expansion of telecommunications sector

By Christina Schlegl
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Minister of Post and Telecommunications Jamal Saraiereh Saturday opened an international telecommunications opportunities workshop, stressing the need to improve and restructure the current telecommunications sector policy and related regulations with the goal that Jordan might become a leading international economic and communications centre in the Middle East.

The seminar brings together 130 participants, from the governmental and private sector.

A total of 29 foreign countries are participating representing companies as diverse as France Telecom, British Telecommunications and IBM.

The workshop focuses telecommunications regulations and official policies and development related to such matters as the new investment law and potential opportunities within the Kingdom.

Some of the participating international companies will summarise their respective services and projected implementation in the Kingdom, followed by a presentation of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), which will state conclusions reached at the recently held Arab States Telecommunications Finance Colloquium.



Minister of Post and Telecommunications Jamal Saraiereh presides over the conference promoting international telecommunications (Petra photo)

um.

The final day will be dedicated to presentations vis-a-vis the business opportunities of cordless communications, the data transmission network in Jordan and the advantages and disadvantages of privatisation.

The minister stated that Jordan recognises the telecommunications sector's great impact on the economy and further described it as the key contributor to the Kingdom's growing economy and national life.

The government showed its willingness to strengthen its telecommunications sector when it commenced its reformation in 1994 and now aims to upgrade the telecommunications infrastructure, to stimulate development of more and better telecommunications services and to encourage investment in the sector from all sources — both local and foreign, he said.

He also introduced a new set of telecommunications regulations, the creation of a telecommunications policy department, the establishment of a regulatory commission and the commercialisation and projected privatisation of the national operator, the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC).

Concerning the ongoing privatisation of the TCC, the minister declared that the corporation will be re-

istered as a company in accordance with Jordanian corporate law within the next week.

It will be government owned but will operate within a corporate law framework and is obligated to be licensed by a regulator.

"A regulatory setting has been established to facilitate a competitive market environment," he continued, "to improve interconnection, resale, leased lines, the quality of service and complaint management."

According to Mr. Saraiereh, the ministry will encourage burgeoning companies to provide improved or innovative services. This could be done in

the form of an alliance or joint venture, by private initiative, partnerships or government initiative.

He concluded his speech by soliciting the contribution of those attending by sharing their experience in developing successful properties and regulatory environments with the goal of encouraging companies to operate in Jordan and thus initiate momentum in the telecommunications sector.

"This will be the beginning of a continuous process," he said, "starting with today's dialogue and we will continue until we are ready to invite potential investors."

A follow-up workshop will be arranged to update the information gleaned, Minister Saraiereh concluded.

The seminar, organised by the ministry, in cooperation with the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and the World Bank, is being held at the Forte Grand Hotel from Sept. 7-9.

WHAT'S GOING ON

LECTURE

* "The Aesthetics of the Relationship Between Man and His Environment" by Dr. George Al Sayegh at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh at 7:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* Works by artists from France, Algeria, Turkey, Morocco, and Egypt entitled "Tapis Volants" at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Weibdeh, until Sept. 24.

* Wrought-iron exhibition by Salim Bandak at Kan Zaman (Tel. 736449), until Sept. 15.

* Works by Batoul Al Fakiki at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street (Tel. 687598), until Sept. 11.

* Summer '96 exhibition at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh, until Oct. 8.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Temperatures to drop

AMMAN (Petra) — The weather in Jordan is expected to cool down some in the next two days with temperatures falling 3-4° C below the seasonal average.

According to the Meteorology Department's daily report, the Kingdom will be affected by a cold front bringing partly cloudy skies during the day and relatively cold nights. Winds will be westerly moderate to gusty causing dust especially in the eastern and southern areas of the Kingdom.

Delegation heads for Brussels

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the Ministry of Culture Saturday left Amman for Brussels to take part in the conference of cultural experts

from European and Mediterranean countries which begins today. The Jordanian delegation which is headed by Secretary General of the Ministry of Culture Qasim Abu Ain, will discuss some proposed projects among which are financing the establishment of cultural centres at governorates' headquarters, providing them with the necessary equipment as well as establishing national libraries. The two-day conference is expected to be attended by 27 Arab and foreign countries.

Standard time announced

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will switch to standard time as of midnight Friday, Sept. 20, according to a communiqué issued by Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti. Clocks will be set back one hour.

Save water...
every drop counts

Arab officers to study Amman traffic

AMMAN (Petra) — Traffic control officers from assorted Arab countries Saturday opened a three-week training seminar in Amman regarding traffic in major cities of the Arab world.

In the opening address at the Public Security Department (PSD), Assistant-Director for Planning and Operations Mohammad Basoul called on participants to help curtail road accidents which, he stated, are on the increase in the Arab countries.

The seminar was formed on the initiative of the Arab Ministers of the Interior Council at the Arab League in Cairo, he said.

In outlining the PSD's efforts to reduce road accidents, Major General Basoul said that although people applying for driving license undergo strict theoretical and practical tests curtail road accidents requires the combined efforts of municipalities, traffic police, motorists and the general public.

Naser Anzi, supervisor at the Arab Bureau for Security Studies and Training at Riyadh, which is organising the seminar with the PSD, informed the opening session that participants will be familiarised with modern methods of traffic control in major cities and also debate legislation, planning, administration and other issues pertaining to traffic regulation and its application.

Nearly 50 participants are taking part in the seminar during which they will hear lectures and conduct field trips and practical work in areas which are especially burdened by heavy traffic notably in the more populated areas of the Kingdom. They will also review local innovation in dealing with traffic problems.

Mr. Anzi further stated that the participants will study issues such as the main factors which contribute to road accidents, traffic control and the impact of transit on the environment.

Clinton aggressively seeks votes in Florida

PANAMA CITY, Florida (R) — President Bill Clinton, buoyed by strong economic data and his own surge in opinion polls, campaigned Friday in a conservative region of Florida in a bid to end the Republicans' recent White House winning streak there.

Welcomed by chants of "four more years" to start a rally that was broadcast live on local television, Mr. Clinton became the first Democratic presidential contender to stump in an area traditionally considered a hopeless cause for the party.

Hoping to end a two-decade-old Republican stranglehold over Florida's presidential voting, Mr. Clinton ended a two-day swing through the state that stressed his record on the economy, education, the environment and health care — issues where he has a solid edge over Republican rival Bob Dole.

"America is on the right track for the 21st century," Mr. Clinton told the crowd, noting the just-released data by the Labour Department shows that unemployment has fallen to 5.1 per cent last month.

The decline in the unemployment rate, which was especially steep among workers over 55 and in their early 20s, brought the jobless rate to its lowest level since March 1989 when it

was 5 per cent, the department said.

With a series of new nationwide polls showing Mr. Clinton with a growing double-digit lead over his Republican challenger, the Democratic incumbent publicly cautioned his followers against complacency.

"Let me assure you, we are not taking anyone or anyone's vote for granted," he said during a speech in Orlando to delegates at the National Baptist Convention, an eight million-member black group.

"We know that the only poll that counts is the one they take on November the fifth," Mr. Clinton told the highly partisan audience. "I ask you to remember that and help others remember it as well."

In appearances in Panama City — a traditionally conservative area of the state that gave him little support four years ago — and in Orlando he celebrated the jobless rate as vindication for his policies.

"The American economy, my fellow Americans, is on the right track and we need to keep it going in that direction," said Mr. Clinton, who contends that the 15 per cent across-the-board tax cut advocated by Sen. Dole would only reverse the nation's economic progress.

Mr. Clinton campaign officials privately have worried that overconfidence

could undermine their efforts as the Nov. 5 election nears — particularly now that some of the inroads Sen. Dole made at the time of last month's Republican convention have been eroding.

A Washington Post-ABC News poll published Friday gave Mr. Clinton a lead of 51 per cent to 37 per cent over Sen. Dole, while a New York Times-CBS News survey the same day put the margin at 50 to 35 per cent in favour of the incumbent.

A nationwide poll taken for Reuters found broad-based support for Mr. Clinton over his Republican rival on a series of issues that potential voters said were important to them. The poll, conducted by John Zogby International, found that on education issues 55.4 per cent of voters favoured Mr. Clinton, 25.4 per cent backed Sen. Dole and 6.2 per cent trusted Texas billionaire Ross Perot, the Reform Party candidate.

On health care, Mr. Clinton was favoured by 48.7 per cent to 27.7 per cent for Sen. Dole, while Mr. Perot trailed with 5.2 per cent. Mr. Clinton held a similar wide lead on dealing with environmental issues, with 51.1 per cent of voters comfortable with him while 19.2 per cent chose Sen. Dole.



President Bill Clinton reaches to shake hands during a campaign rally Friday at Valencia Community College in Orlando. Mr. Clinton is stopping in four Florida cities on his campaign swing (Reuters photo)

Kashmiris vote amid scattered violence and border clashes

SRINAGAR, India (R) — Authorities reported scattered violence, cross-border shooting and a mixed voter turnout Saturday in Kashmir's first local elections since a revolt against Indian rule erupted six years ago.

Police said two small bombs exploded and a third was defused in Jammu and Kashmir state but there were no casualty reports.

Defence officials said Indian and Pakistani troops exchanged fire in at least four places along their border.

An Indian army spokesman said the firing was heavier than usual. "This is a quantum jump over routine border firing."

The spokesman said Pakistani troops used heavy artillery, machineguns and small guns. Apart from Indian security positions, they also targeted communication networks and roads.

"They are just trying to harass the people," he said.

About 200,000 soldiers, paramilitary troops and police were deployed to prevent attacks on more than 2,000 polling stations in 26 of the state's 87 constituencies voting Saturday. Voting in other constituencies will be over three days — Sept. 16, 21 and 30.

Five hours after polling started, officials said the turnout ranged from eight per cent in Jangate area in the Kashmir Valley to 39 per cent in the Buddhist-dominated Zaskar region.

Few voters were seen at booths in Baramulla town, about 50 kilometres north-west of Srinagar, the state's summer capital.

But at nearby Pattan town

hundreds of people queued to vote and celebrated spontaneously in streets, witnesses said.

At least five leading separatists, including Shabir Shah, sometimes called "the Nelson Mandela of Kashmir," were detained or placed under house arrest, their aides said.

Most leading separatist groups have urged voters to boycott the polls, viewed as crucial to Indian Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda's efforts to restore democracy in the state, where more than 20,000 people have been killed since early 1990.

A small homemade bomb exploded about 200 metres from a polling booth in Warsun village, some 100 kilometres north of Srinagar, police said.

Another small bomb exploded before polling in Digwar village, 250 kilometres north of the state's winter capital, Jammu, and near the line of control with Pakistan, police said.

Police said a homemade bomb was defused in Baramulla.

Since the outbreak of the rebellion in 1990, some 10 to 15 people on average have been killed each day in the state in clashes between security forces and militants, as well as in bomb, grenade and other attacks, according to police records.

Pakistan and India have fought two of their three wars since independence in 1947 over the region. Pakistan controls one third of Kashmir and has staked a claim over the rest.

Suspected militants fired on police in Lal-Pora vil-

lage in northern Kashmir, authorities said. It was not immediately known if there were any casualties.

Meanwhile, at least two voters in Baramulla told Reuters they had been forced by soldiers to cast ballots.

"Early in the morning the army came to our village and forced us to go two miles away from our village to cast our vote," said Mohammad Ashraf, who had come from Tangdi Bala village. "They have forced our ladies too."

"This morning they came to our village and asked us to vote," said Aijaz Ahmad of Tangdi Bala. "They said, 'if you come without a mark on your finger, we will cut off your finger.'"

The fingers of Indian voters traditionally are stained with indelible ink after they vote.

Human rights groups said there were widespread instances of coercion in general elections in May.

The government denied the claims.

Hundreds of Kashmiri demonstrators burned an effigy of the Indian prime minister at a rally in Muzaffarabad. Pakistani-controlled Kashmir, Saturday to protest ongoing elections in Indian-held Kashmir.

Some 500 people, led by State Premier Sultan Mahmood, paraded through the streets of this capital city of Pakistan-controlled northern third of Kashmir, chanting "down with India" and "we reject elections in occupied Kashmir."

Reports said rallies were also held in other Kashmiri cities.



Wreckage of a Marine CH 46E helicopter is shown burning on a runway at Orlando Executive Airport Friday. The crew escaped injury following the crash. They were part of President Bill Clinton's entourage for a campaign visit to Florida (Reuters photo)

White House orders helicopter safety review

ORLANDO, Florida (R) — The White House Friday ordered a broad safety review after two Marine helicopters supporting a visit by President Bill Clinton were involved in separate incidents, one rolling over and burning and the other forced to land in a farm field.

There were no serious injuries among the 17 Marines and one Boeing Co. employee on the CH-46E helicopters, Mr. Clinton, on a two-day campaign trip to Florida, was not involved in either incident.

White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta Friday night sent a letter to Defence Secretary William Perry ordering him to "undertake a top to bottom review of all operational aspects, including maintenance and training procedures" of the Pentagon's executive support air fleet.

He asked that the review begin within the next 30 days "to ensure that all nec-

essary steps and safeguards are being taken to provide the safest possible transportation."

The air fleet provides support and travel for the president, vice president, cabinet officials and members of Congress. On some occasions it also transports members of the news media covering a presidential event.

Mr. Panetta said he was taking the action because "within the last six months, a number of unfortunate accidents have occurred" involving the Defence Department fleet.

The two incidents Friday occurred about 15 minutes apart and involved helicopters assigned to a special Marine squadron based at the Quantico Marine Base, Virginia, near Washington.

"This has been an extraordinarily safe squadron over 50 years," said Pentagon spokesman Ken Bacon in Washington. He told reporters that Mr. Clinton had

expressed confidence in the Marine fliers after the incidents.

One of the big twin-bladed CH-46E "Sea Knight" cargo helicopters was taxiing after landing at Orlando Executive Airport at about 11:15 a.m. with five Marines and a Boeing Co. employee aboard when one of its rotors apparently hit a light pole, according to eyewitnesses.

The chopper rolled over and caught fire about 15 minutes after the other helicopter set down in a field about 20 kilometres south of Orlando with 12 Marines on board when a warning light indicated a hydraulic pump failure. Mr. Bacon said.

The helicopter involved in the airport incident had been used Thursday to transport members of the press pool who accompanied Mr. Clinton as he travelled in Florida.

The incidents, which Mr. Bacon referred to "as a fair-

ly standard mission with an unstandard result," followed the crash of a presidential travel support plane last month.

A C-130 air force cargo plane that accompanied Mr. Clinton on his vacation trip to Jackson, Wyoming, crashed on a Wyoming mountain on Aug. 17, killing all nine people aboard. Eight were crew members and one was a secret service agent.

The two helicopters are attached to Squadron HMX-1 based in Quantico. The squadron, established in 1947, has provided helicopters exclusively for White House use and support since 1976.

The CH-46E is considered the workhorse of the Marine Corps. Built by Boeing Co., it was first used in the Vietnam War and is designed to carry troops or up to 5,000 pounds (2,250 kg) of cargo.

Congress wants to hear Morris on FBI file scandal

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Members of Congress want to know what Dick Morris, the mastermind behind President Bill Clinton's reelection campaign who quit in the wake of a sex scandal, knows about the White House FBI file scandal, according to a report Saturday.

The Washington Post reported that members of the House of Representatives and the Senate investigating how hundreds of sensitive Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) files ended up at the White House, could subpoena Mr. Morris after he allegedly said first lady Hillary Clinton ordered them.

Mr. Morris quit the Clinton campaign in late August after a tabloid newspaper broke the story of his alleged affair with a \$200-an-hour prostitute.

The woman, Sherry Rowlands, said in her diaries which she sold to the tabloid the Star that she asked Mr. Morris in June about how the files, some concerning prominent Republicans, got to the presidential mansion.

"It was Hillary, in 1993. She ordered them. She's a paranoid lady — she did it," Ms. Rowlands said Mr. Morris replied.

The report raised the attention of Pennsylvania Republican Representative William Clinger who heads the Government Reform and Oversight Committee. The Post reported that Mr. Clinger said Mr. Morris should respond under oath to the tabloid story and would be subpoenaed if necessary.

The Senate Judiciary Committee is also interested in arranging an interview with Mr. Morris soon, the paper reported.

Mark Fabiani, a White House spokesman, told the Post that the Star account was "ridiculous. The first lady had no role in seeking the FBI files, nor ... has there been any shred of evidence to support this allegation."

The administration has repeatedly said the files were mistakenly brought to the White House due to a bureaucratic foul up.

On another front, Mr. Morris, 48, who is married, was reported to be having an affair since the early 1980s with another woman who has a six-year-old girl fathered by him.

Mr. Morris has also earned the consternation of the White House with reports that he secretly signed multimillion dollar book contract months ago while still working for Mr. Clinton.

The former presidential advisor was one of the key architects in rebuilding Mr. Clinton's image after the devastating 1994 mid-term elections which saw the Republicans rout the Democrats from control in both houses of Congress.

He urged the president, who came to office with a sweeping agenda of social programmes, to recentre himself in line with the more conservative centre.

That tactic now leaves Mr. Clinton clearly ahead of his Republican challenger Bob Dole in recent polls.

Mr. Morris first worked with Mr. Clinton in 1978 when Mr. Clinton was involved in Arkansas politics.

S. Africa must rewrite new constitution — court

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa's top court Friday said the country's new constitution, tortuously negotiated to form the foundations for the post-apartheid era, was flawed and would have to be partly rewritten.

President Nelson Mandela said the ruling showed the law, meant to replace an interim constitution by 1999, was basically sound and he was sure objections could be overcome.

"The decision...makes it clear that the basic structure of the constitution is acceptable," he told reporters. "I have no doubt that we will be able to go into the problems which have been referred to us by the Constitutional Court."

Politicians who haggled for months in smoke-filled rooms to reach an 11th-hour accord in May grappled with the prospect of starting again. They meet informally Monday to mull it over.

Constitutional Court President Arthur Chaskalson said he also saw no major hurdles.

The court's 11 judges ruled that the 140-page "birth certificate" of the new South Africa was on the right track but failed in several respects to meet minimum conditions thrashed out in multi-party talks that led to democracy in 1994.

Mr. Chaskalson cited too little provincial autonomy, insufficient guarantee of basic rights and a failure to protect independent state watchdogs as the court's main objections.

"We are unable to and therefore do not certify that all of the provisions of the constitution of the Republic of South Africa 1996 comply with the constitutional principles," he said.

"The instances of non-compliance, although singly and collectively important, should present no significant obstacle to the formulation of a text which complies fully," he added.

The sticking points will not make South Africa's delicately woven democracy come apart at the seams but the rejection is likely to reopen wrangling between President Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) and its rivals.

The Constitutional Assembly, made up of all 490 members of South Africa's first all-race parliament, took two years to complete the original negotiations. Talks went on to the last gasp in May over employers' rights and language education.

Once they were over the white-led National Party of former President F.W. de Klerk, saying its views had been ignored by the ANC, quit Mr. Mandela's government of national unity.

Roelf Meyer, secretary-general and chief negotiator of the National Party, which invented apartheid and imposed it for four decades, told Reuters he welcomed Friday's judgment. "It shows up those who thought politicians, rather than the courts, would control the writing of our new constitution," he said.

The third coalition partner, the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party, boycotted the whole constitutional process when foreign mediation promised by the ANC failed to materialise.

Inkatha leaders said they might consider this week-end whether to rejoin the talks. If they do, the whole process — which is supposed to be finished this year — could drag on.

Teenage boozers targeted in British

LONDON (R) — Britain launched plans Saturday to curb Britain's growing "yob culture" by giving police new powers to stop young teenagers from drinking in public. A Home Office (Interior Ministry) consultation paper said police should be allowed to confiscate alcohol from anyone under 18 seen drinking in public and take their names and addresses. "Action is needed to stop drunken people vandalising property and causing mischief in public places," said Home Office Minister Timothy Kirkhope. "I know that some people find it very distressing and disturbing to see young people drunk in public, especially when they cause trouble," he added. The proposals were welcomed by police and are expected to win the support of the opposition Labour Party which is keen to be seen as strong on law-and-order issues in the run-up to next year's general election. The law currently prohibits the sale of alcohol to anyone under the age of 18, but drinking by teenagers younger than that is not illegal. Concerns about under-age drinking in Britain have been raised recently by the growing popularity of alcoholic "soft drinks" known as Alcopops. The latest of these was withdrawn from sale only hours after it was launched last week after alcohol awareness campaigners said its brightly-coloured packaging would attract young drinkers, despite the £2 (\$3.00) a bottle price tag. The tangerine-flavoured Alcopop called Thickhead is to be relaunched with a new label.

Mayor: Fishkill, N.Y. here to stay

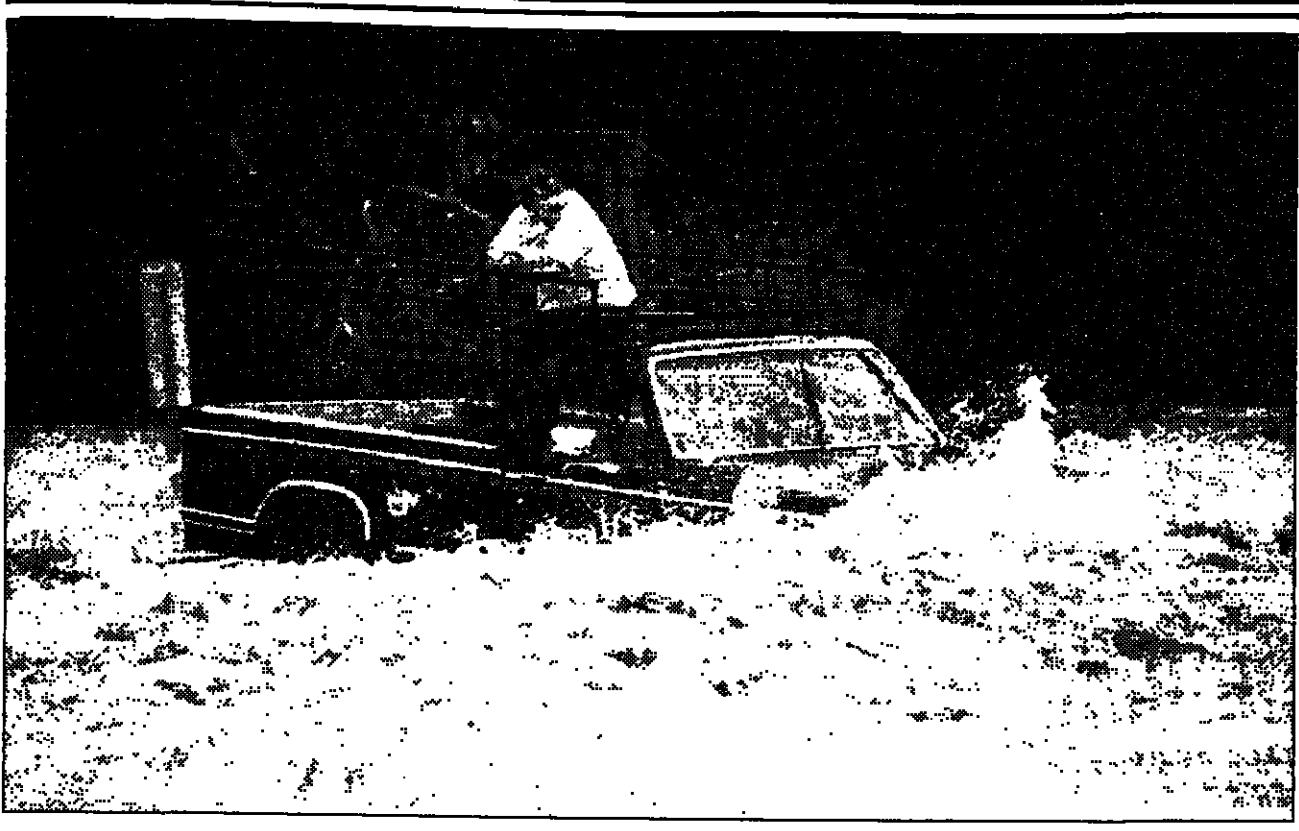
FISHKILL, New York (R) — The mayor of Fishkill Friday rejected a request of an animal rights group to change his town's name, which the group said people associate with the slaughter of animals. "We are not going to change the name," Mayor George Carter wrote to the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). "It's been here all these years." The group had wanted to rename the village of 1,930 people about 96 kilometres north of New York City to Fishsave. The name Fishkill, which means fish creek or stream, originated with the Dutch, who settled the Hudson River Valley in the 1600s, the mayor said. As is his duty, he said he will put the issue, raised in a letter from PETA this week, to a meeting of village trustees Monday. But the decision is a foregone conclusion, he said. "Residents and businesses feel the same way I do," he said. "They figure this is totally ridiculous." PETA knew of Fishkill's historic meaning but not everyone does, said Davey Shephard, organiser of a PETA campaign against fishing. "People in California, for instance, have no idea what it means. It might as well be dead fish to them."

World's first ghetto gets kosher cafe

VENICE, Italy (AFP) — Italy's first kosher cafe opened here Friday on the 480-year-old site of the world's first ghetto. Venice's Jewish quarter was founded in 1516 by Jews from central Europe and the Mediterranean on the site of a foundry, ghetto in Venetian, which gave its name to future Jewish districts around the world. The cafe, a former grocery store bought by orthodox Jews from New York, was opened in the presence of Venice Rabbi Roberto Della Rocca and the city mayor, Massimo Cacciari. The Venice ghetto, which has five synagogues, attracts some 70,000 visitors a year, mostly from the United States.

Teenage boozers targeted in British

LONDON R. — British police have targeted teenage boozers in a new campaign. The police are targeting young people who are drinking in public places. The police are targeting young people who are drinking in public places. The police are targeting young people who are drinking in public places.



A man stands in the back of his pickup truck as he waits to be rescued in Raleigh, North Carolina after Hurricane Fran moved through the area causing flooding and massive power outages during the early morning hours of Friday (Reuter photo)

Hurricane leaves at least 17 dead in U.S.

WILMINGTON, North Carolina (AFP) — Hurricane Fran killed at least 17 people after whipping the east coast with heavy surf and pushing inland where drenching rain from the weakening storm left millions without power.

The storm caused flooding in North Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia and more than four million people were left without power. Of the reported fatalities, officials said most were attributed to traffic accidents and fallen trees.

Among the dead were a 10-year-old North Carolina boy who was killed when a tree crushed his trailer home, and a Virginia woman who was swept away by floodwaters while trying to cross a creek in an all-terrain vehicle.

Virginia Power said Friday the storm left the most widespread damage to its electric system ever seen.

Fran's sweep across the utility's North Carolina and Virginia service territory left thousands of downed or damaged power lines and power poles — and up to 415,000 of its customers without power, the company said in a statement.

"This storm has damaged our electric distribution system in almost every part of our service area," said company president and CEO James Rhodes. The company said the widespread nature of the damage made it difficult to even estimate restoration times.

President Bill Clinton Friday declared a major disaster in Virginia, opening the state up to federal relief funds.

But it was North Carolina that took the brunt of the storm. Governor Jim Hunt declared a state of emergency in all 100 counties in the state.

For the first time in the North Carolina history, officials also put on alert all 2,000-plus state law enforcement agents, including the highway patrol.

When Fran first slammed ashore near Cape Fear, North Carolina, late Thursday, the hurricane packed winds that clocked up to 185 kilometres (114 miles) per hour.

More than 1.5 million North Carolinians were without electricity Friday, mostly in the eastern two-thirds of the state, and it was expected to be days before power was restored. Major highways were closed by high water.

"We've had a terrible storm. ... This is devastation like we have really never seen," Mr. Hunt told ABC Television early Friday.

"We have trees down everywhere, houses badly damaged. We have flooding all over," Hunt said in the interview in Raleigh, describing the scene 192 kilometres inland. Water 90 centimetres deep was reported in that city.

Mr. Clinton, on a campaign swing through Orlando, Florida, said "we are going to do everything we can to help the people of North Carolina and South Carolina in these difficult times."

He declared North Carolina a major disaster area.

Destruction from Fran could come to more than \$1 billion in losses in North Carolina alone, state officials said.

Local tourism officials estimate the region will lose \$6 million a day in visitor revenues.

The Insurance Information Institute predicted Fran will cost the U.S. insurance industry around \$625 million in property damage claims.

Officials here in Wilmington, about 20 kilometres inland from the North Carolina coast, said damage along the beach was extensive and the storm knocked out power in most of the city.

Winds toppled part of the century-old Belltower of the First Baptist Church of Wilmington, a neo-Gothic structure in the heart of the historic district.

"It had been pretty much shaken by Bertha, and Fran completed the job," sighed Pat Sarb, who had been surveying storm damage since dawn. Hurricane Bertha struck in July.

Wilmington was the largest city bearing the full brunt of Fran. According to power officials 95 per cent of the residents were without power during the storm.

Yeltsin, Kohl meet amid Russian power debate

MOSCOW (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin, under pressure to transfer power to his prime minister until he recovers from heart surgery later this month, welcomed German Chancellor Helmut Kohl to his country residence Saturday.

The 65-year-old Kremlin leader welcomed Mr. Kohl as he arrived by helicopter at a picturesque hunting lodge about 100 kilometres northwest of Moscow.

"I have been waiting for this meeting and preparing for it all week," ITAR-TASS news agency quoted Mr. Kohl as saying. The two men, personal friends, were smiling and in apparent good spirits as they headed for the residence by car. "I like it here. A beautiful place," Mr. Kohl remarked.

"It's better to relax here and not work, but we shall work and relax," replied Mr. Yeltsin.

It was Mr. Yeltsin's first encounter with a Western head of government since he was elected on July 3 to a second four-year term in the Kremlin.

Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Kohl, both dressed in casual clothes, were due to hold more than four hours of informal talks, take a stroll through the grounds of the residence and perhaps go fishing in the peaceful backwaters of a nearby river.

Mr. Kohl, who arrived in Moscow earlier Saturday, will get a rare first-hand impression of the Russian leader's condition. The chancellor is expected to give a news conference before his departure.

He was expected to discuss with Mr. Yeltsin economic relations between Germany and Russia and international security issues, including the recent U.S. missile attacks against Iraq and the planned eastward expansion of NATO.

But German officials have said the one-day visit is an informal affair with no urgent agenda.

A German government spokesman said the schedule for the meeting had not been changed despite Mr. Yeltsin's forthcoming operation. Mr. Yeltsin said Thursday that he was preparing for surgery to relieve his heart problems.

The announcement ended months of equivocation over the Kremlin leader's health and put pressure on him to hand over power to his constitutional stand-in, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, until he recovers.

A surgeon told Interfax News Agency that Mr. Yeltsin, who has largely disappeared from public view since late June, would undergo a relatively routine bypass operation, which involves grafting on a vein to divert blood from clogged cardiac arteries.

Millions of bypass operations have been carried out around the world since the 1960s. Most patients have been able to return to work within about a month.

Liberal parliamentarian Viktor Sheinis told Interfax that Mr. Yeltsin was under no constitutional obligation to transfer power, although such a move was possible.

But security chief Alexander Lebed said the time had come for Mr. Yeltsin to name Mr. Chernomyrdin to rule temporarily. The speaker of the State Duma lower chamber of parliament, Gennady Seleznyov, also called for Mr. Chernomyrdin to step in.

"A situation has arisen where someone (Yeltsin) is temporarily unable to carry out his duties," Gen. Lebed said. "For that period, by his order or decree, a person who would run the country and be responsible for what is going on should be clearly defined and named — and his name is Chernomyrdin."

Under the constitution, if the president is unable to carry out his duties, the prime minister stands in for him for up to three months, after which new elections must be held.

Mr. Yeltsin's prolonged absence from the political centre stage sparked speculation about a power vacuum in the Kremlin and a struggle for influence between Gen. Lebed, Mr. Chernomyrdin and Presidential Chief of Staff Anatoly Chubais.

Meanwhile, President Yeltsin said in a magazine interview to be published Monday that he has nothing to hide from the nation.

The magazine, Itogi, has also unearthed what it calls the dramatic inside story of how Mr. Yeltsin first refused and was then persuaded to have the operation.

Editor Sergei Parkhomenko told Reuters that he thought Mr. Chernomyrdin was the man who changed Mr. Yeltsin's mind.

Mr. Chernomyrdin is the only leader to have visited Mr. Yeltsin since he went to his Rus residence outside Moscow on Aug. 26 for a holiday.

"He must have told Yeltsin — look, the same surgeon did the same operation on me in 1992 and here I am, alive and fit," Mr. Parkhomenko said.

Mr. Parkhomenko said he started digging into the question of Mr. Yeltsin's health last month and found several cardiologists ready to discuss "this complicated medical case."

Moscow's Cardiological Centre, headed by top heart specialist Yevgeny Chazov, conducted "coronography" tests on the president in mid-August which showed the need for an operation on the blood vessels supplying his heart. Dr. Chazov confirmed this Friday to Interfax News Agency.

And then the problems began, Mr. Parkhomenko said. Mr. Yeltsin refused.

Several doctors told Mr. Parkhomenko such behaviour was typical for many patients, especially those in responsible posts with a strong will and a desire to lead.

Moreover, most of the best Russian heart surgeons refused to consider operating on the 85-year-old president, fearing failure, Mr. Parkhomenko told Reuters.

But one, Professor Rinat Akchurin, the chief surgeon at Dr. Chazov's centre, said: "I will do it, I did the same for Chernomyrdin in 1992."

There was no independent confirmation of Mr. Chernomyrdin's operation. But Dr. Chazov told Interfax that if the president chose his centre the operation would be performed by Prof. Akchurin.

The text of Mr. Yeltsin's written interview with Itogi, received by the magazine a day before the announcement, seemed to show that he had made up his mind by then.

"The times when the top leader appeared once a year, somewhere atop the mausoleum, and the country was in fact ruled by a faceless crowd of bureaucrats, are in the past along with the Communist regime and, I am convinced, will never return," Mr. Yeltsin said.

Soviet leaders traditionally appeared on top of Soviet founding father Vladimir Lenin's mausoleum on Red Square during annual public parades.

"It is the duty of the president to make sure that every voter is convinced that the country is in reliable and firm hands, the very same hands into which he put it by voting," Mr. Yeltsin said.

"That is why I deem it necessary to talk to the Russians openly and calmly. I have nothing to hide from them."

Mayor: Frank N.Y. here to

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Sunday's Economic Pulse

Jordan ranks high in global competitiveness

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

JORDAN ATTAINED a satisfactory position in the contest for competitiveness. It came 28th among 49 countries covered by the "Global Competitiveness Report 1996" issued by the World Economic Forum, Geneva, Switzerland. Among the countries covered by the report were Egypt which ranked 29th, just behind Jordan, and Israel which was placed in the 24th position, only four places ahead of Jordan. At the top of the list was Singapore, while Russia occupied the bottom.

As far as the economic performance in Jordan is concerned, the report stated that the value of gross domestic product (GDP) of Jordan in 1995 is estimated at \$7 billion, which is roughly correct. However, the report mentioned that the per capita GDP of Jordan is \$1,211 which is wrong. The right figure is \$1,628. It seems that the compilers of the report divided the GDP over the total population of the East Bank and the West Bank i.e., 5.8 million, instead of distributing it over the population of Jordan, estimated at 4.3 million.

The Global Competitiveness Report dealt with Jordanian economic performance in 1995 from five points of view:

First, the real economic growth of GDP which was 6.4 per cent. Here the report assigned to Jordan four stars.

Second, the real growth rate of exports was 10.8 per cent,

which earned Jordan three stars.

Third, the ratio of new foreign direct investment of GDP which was very low and accordingly did not deserve more than one star.

Fourth, the consumer inflation rate which was 2.4 per cent which gave Jordan five stars.

Fifth, the rate of unemployment which was estimated at 14.8 of the labour force, too high to allow more than one star.

The report picked eight clusters of structural characteristics of each country to judge its overall competitiveness, which were termed "the eight factors of competitiveness."

The first is openness of the economy to international trade and finance. Here Jordan was given the 35th rank.

The second is the role of government budget and regulation i.e., the quality of the government and public administration. Here Jordan came in the 16th position.

The third is the development of financial markets and banking system. Here Jordan was 26th on the list.

The fourth is the quality of infrastructure and basic services. Here Jordan was 28th on the list.

The fifth is the quality of technology where Jordan was in the 30th position.

The sixth is the quality of business management. In this

sensitive area Jordan came 38th in the list of nations.

The seventh is labour market flexibility. Here Jordan was placed in the 35 position.

Finally, the quality of judicial and political institutions where Jordan occupied the 24th position among the 49 nations.

According to the Global Competitiveness Report, the best sector in Jordan is its government and public administration, followed by its judicial and political institutions, then its financial market, and its infrastructure, in that order.

The worst sectors, according to the report, are business management, followed by the labour market, the degree of openness to international markets, and the state of technology, in that order.

There is no evidence that the above observations and the ranks are 100 per cent accurate, but they give some indications which are worth our attention. They can help us pinpoint the strong points in the Jordanian economy to promote, and the weak point to reform.

All in all, the report was favourable. The economic performance in Jordan may be satisfactory to foreign observers, but we should not be satisfied with a mediocre performance in any sector of our life.

And the march goes on

ISRAELI PRIME Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's encounter with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat a few days ago may indeed have fallen short of the initial expectations of a significant breakthrough, but it nevertheless was an historic occasion which marked the Israeli right-wing's legitimisation of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and the recognition of its leadership. The mere holding of the much-awaited meeting is by any standard a remarkable transformation which can open all doors before a true Arab-Israeli reconciliation and a lasting settlement to the Palestinian problem.

There had been speculation that no such meeting could take place in the absence of the resolution of all outstanding issues separating the two parties, including the redeployment of the Israeli army in Hebron. Indeed Netanyahu himself had precluded the holding of just "a ceremonial meeting" with Arafat and insisted on a substantive venue that would crown agreement on all pending issues. During his election campaign, the Likud leader pledged never to talk personally with Arafat or shake hands with him unless it was absolutely necessary for Israel's security. Now, however, not only is the situation different, the perceptions too are changing. Which makes the shift in the Israeli leader's attitudes and policies all the more important since it could herald the start of a new era in Palestinian-Israeli relations.

The fact that the majority of the Israeli electorate has supported the Netanyahu-Arafat summit reflects a new mood among Israelis including hardliners who had cast their votes for the Likud or worse. According to a poll published by the newspaper Maariv, 77 per cent of the Israeli population approved of the meeting. Another poll undertaken by Dahaf Institute and published Friday by Yediot Aharonot confirmed the finding that Israelis overwhelmingly welcomed the move.

True a minority within the Likud hierarchy opposed the meeting and that opposition was given expression by people like Ariel Sharon and Benny Begin. But the Israeli foreign minister, David Levy, may have reflected faithfully the new emerging perspective among Israelis including the hardliners when he warned that the failure of the peace process with the Palestinians would spell "a return to hell." Both Netanyahu and Levy even went further when the prime minister threatened "to fire" cabinet members who refused to toe the new line. "Those who think that the meeting was a defeat or catastrophe only have to leave," Levy said.

The importance of the encounter, though, remains to be tested. It is well-known that Netanyahu went to the meeting with Arafat grudgingly. The Israeli leader admitted afterwards that shaking hands with him "wasn't easy." We also know that he quickly qualified his declaration at the conclusion of the meeting that "both sides reiterate their commitment to the interim agreements and their determination to carry out its implementation," by suggesting that both sides need "to take into account the needs and requirements of each other on the basis of reciprocity and the assurance of the security and well-being of both Israelis and Palestinians. It is also probably true that Netanyahu wanted to rid himself of the complex against facing Arafat prior to his visit to Washington Monday to meet President Bill Clinton.

The real test of any possible positive evolutionary change in the perceptions of Israelis especially the supporters of Likud would occur, however, when they support the ending of their deeply rooted apartheid-like policies against the Palestinians. To start to regard Palestinians as fellow human beings entitled to all basic civic, economic and political human rights would contain the seeds for the historic reconciliation between the two peoples. Dehumanising the Palestinians by denying them recognition was, and will always be a great obstacle to sound and equal Israeli-Palestinian relations. Netanyahu may have blazed a new trail and taken a fresh approach but it needs to be cemented by actions all the way.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER FOR Al Ra'i daily Saturday dealt with Turkey's declared intention of creating a "security zone" within the Iraqi territory along its borders with Iraq under the pretext of guaranteeing security against continued Kurdish attacks. Such a move, which reminds the Arab people of the Israeli security zone in southern Lebanon, would constitute a grave danger to the Arab Nation and not for Iraq alone, said Sultan Al Hatab. The Turkish plan, which enjoys backing from the United States, is a flagrant intervention in Iraq's internal affairs and an encroachment on Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity, continued the writer. Should Turkey carry out its plan benefiting from the volatile situation in Iraq, it would open the way for a similar Iranian move and could invite intervention from other powers in the region including Israel which has ambitions in the Arab World, said the writer. By concerning their concern over the situation in Iraq and acting over the plight of the Iraqi people, the Arab regimes are not doing anything at all to protect the so-called Arab order, he said, adding that if they remain passive towards the developments in the region, offering only lip service to the Iraqi people, they would expose the whole area as well as Iraq to fragmentation and loss.

Netanyahu and the peace process Inheriting the goose with the golden egg

By Nasser H. Aruri

THE DEFEAT of Shimon Peres in the Israeli elections last June sent shock waves throughout the Middle East, the U.S. and Europe. The consensus was that the "peace process" had been dealt a severe, if not fatal, blow. After all, it had been widely assumed that the diplomatic developments of the past three years constituted a milestone in the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and that more than a quarter-century of U.S. diplomatic efforts had finally paid off. Concurrently, Likud, who gave U.S. diplomacy its first success in the Middle East, on the Egyptian-Israeli track in 1978), were assumed to be spoilers on the Palestinian and Syrian tracks; their opposition to Oslo was a matter of public record, hence the consternation.

And yet the diplomatic record of the past three years is full of spectacular gains, for Israel. More than anything else, the "peace process" has helped Israel realise crucial policy goals and enabled the Zionist movement to fulfill strategic ambitions enunciated 100 years ago. Peace has been so popular in Israel that Netanyahu, the opponent of the "peace" candidate, had to repeatedly confirm and emphasise his commitment to international agreements and to "peace". Why, then, would he overlook the tangible and enormously beneficial consequences of "peace"?

Israel's peace process gains

Relations with the U.S. have never been closer. Never before has Israel had such carte blanche from Washington — to confiscate Arab land, build settlements, enlarge Jerusalem, terrorise Lebanon, impoverish the Palestinians and sustain such transgressions with U.S. taxpayers' funds. Security Council vetoes and controversial standing ovations.

Not only has Israel been able to shed the pariah image of the past three decades, but it has been transformed into a special state and rewarded with prominence, making it the oracle in the field of security and terrorism. Its expertise in security affairs, technology, health services and irrigation is regularly sought by countries in Asia, Africa and the Muslim countries of the old USSR, most of whom did not even have consular relations with Israel before Oslo. The state which has set a record in the practice of state terrorism, including such egregious crimes and breaches as collective punishment, mass expulsions, torture, house demolition, death squads assassinations, among others, is now seen as credible, civilised and responsible. The Oslo process even facilitated a Nobel Peace Prize for the late Yitzhak Rabin.

The peace process has been good for business as more and more Israeli companies enter new markets in hitherto closed areas. Israel now has one of the highest GDP growth rates among developed economies. Its per capita GDP today exceeds \$15,000, compared to \$3,400 20 years ago, placing it 20th in the world. Israel now spends less than 100 per cent of its GDP on defence. It spent 30 per cent in the 1970s. The peace process has opened numerous export markets for a country with a small domestic market and whose growth can

only be enhanced by expanding exports.

No longer willing to devote so many precious resources to military expenditure, Israel will be able to assure security and regional hegemony through the use of advanced technology and minimal reliance on traditional techniques, which overburden its limited human resources. One of the world's most developed economies is being created in a society which has been sustained by U.S. grants (\$70 billion in total so far), slave-like Palestinian labour and land and water mostly acquired through conquest. This economic trend is enhanced by its deal with the Palestinian authority. The Oslo process and the PNA are therefore part of an Israeli negotiating strategy, which is part and parcel of its strategic planning for the 21st century.

Diplomatic intercourse with the Arab World was the direct result of the "historic" handshake. There is now full diplomatic representation with Egypt and Jordan and quasi-diplomatic relations with more than a half a dozen Arab countries, not to mention relations with numerous Muslim states for the first time since the creation of Israel. Moreover, Oslo has detached the Palestinian dimension from the Arab factor. Peace with Syria, for example, is no longer dependent on Israeli compliance with U.N. resolutions on Palestine. Peace with the less steadfast Arab states is not even dependent on Israeli compliance with Resolution 242 as it applies to Syria, or with Resolution 425 as it applies to Lebanon, not to mention Jerusalem, refugees, settlements and water.

The PLO has been transformed, thanks to Oslo, from the liberation movement of the Palestinian people to Israel's warden and gendarme in Palestinian Bantustans such as Gaza, Jericho, Nablus, and Ramallah. PLO institutions such as the PNC have been used to legitimise the Zionist enterprise and its various quests, so that resistance to an illegal military occupation is reclassified as an act of random terror, the suppression of which by the new subcontractor and former resistance fighter is an obligatory condition for continuing the talks and the meagre U.S. subsidy. This is the real significance of the April PNC amendment to the National Covenant, alas, not even to Netanyahu's full satisfaction.

Overall, peace for Israel has meant prosperity, hegemony, normalisation and the effective fragmentation of Palestinian society, thus retarding its struggle for independence and statehood. If Israel has never had it so good, why would Netanyahu then kill the goose that laid the golden egg? The fact is that contrary to a widely held belief, he is not opposed to the peace process. His campaign rhetoric and post-campaign statements were designed to extract from the peace process bigger and better dividends by exploiting the winter state of suicide bombings and by blackmailing Arafat. As for the U.S., he knew beforehand that Clinton's opposition to his candidacy did not constitute an opposition to his policies. Recent events have shown that the Clinton administration is a follower rather than a leader in the Middle East. Even in the unlikely event that the admini-

tration were to stand up for its guarantor rights over the peace process, Israel's U.S. domestic proxies and tributaries, who are now entrenched in key congressional committees, have the means to render the attempt superfluous.

Netanyahu's "new framework"

How will Netanyahu then reshape this peace process, and what does he intend to achieve? Will his goals differ from those of Peres or will only the means be different? An analysis of his post-campaign speeches, interviews and statements by key advisers in recent weeks indicates that there is a plan of action already in place. Contrary to what U.S. officials have been telling Arab leaders, the new Israeli government does not need time to transform the campaign rhetoric into policy. Although Netanyahu is not known as a rigorous and systematic policymaker, his government has a detailed statement of policy guidelines. The intentions of his new government are certainly not unclear.

Washington's plea for prudence on the part of Arab leaders and President Mubarak's assurances that the real Netanyahu is yet to emerge either reflect calculated political strategies or express political naivete. It is not matter of a reasonable interval which must separate the candidate from the prime minister; Netanyahu's campaign promises were, in fact, meant to be translated into public policy, a framework for which has already been delineated. There is also a verbal strategy, which Netanyahu himself uses, especially when addressing the U.S. and it is usually synchronised with his policy objectives. Netanyahu's policy revolves around three dominant themes relating to Israel's security interests. Palestinians' concerns and the nature of peace.

Israel's overall interest is defined as "security," itself described by Netanyahu as one of the pillars of peace. Security has three main dimensions: First, a strategic dimension, based on the principle that Israel must be in a position to guarantee its own security with its own forces stationed along the River Jordan, the Golan Heights and the Rafah border. While Arafat's police apparatus has a crucial role to play in guarding Israel's security, its own forces must remain in a position to exercise all options, including hot pursuit into the autonomous zones at will. The "external security" clause in the first Oslo agreement, which was a bone of contention between Rabin and Arafat in late 1993, was meant to ensure that all points of entry and exit, a matter of sovereignty, were firmly in Israel's hand, with the PNA performing a window-dressing role.

For Netanyahu, "external" and "demographic" security are inseparable. Control of the former is a necessary condition for ensuring the latter, since the Palestinians should not be in a position to "flood Judea and Samaria with refugees," in the words of Dore Gold, the American academic who is being described as "Netanyahu's Kissinger." Ironically, the settler from Hartford, Connecticut, considers the return of indigenous Palestinian refugees, as mandated by U.N. resolutions but deferred by Oslo to final status negotiations, a lethal act that would tip the demographic balance against Jews. For him a Jewish majority is synonymous with demographic security, and both can be guaranteed by excluding a sovereign role for the Palestinians on the question of borders. Hence a Palestinian state, which would have its own immigration policy, is totally rejected.

The three other dimensions of security — settlements, water and greater Jerusalem — are, likewise, effective non-negotiable. The "Guidelines of the Government of Israel," published on June 17, confer a permanent status on the Israeli settlements in the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan Heights similar to those in Israel proper — in Galilee and the Negev — all of which are considered of "national importance to Israel's defence and an expression of Zionist fulfillment." Placing all settlements, whether in Arab territory occupied in 1948 or in 1967, in the same category, is an ominous signal that the distinction between Israel proper (1948) and occupied territory (1967) has been rendered irrelevant. The right of Jews to settle anywhere in Mandate Palestine is regarded as part of the free movement of persons and goods.

A United Nations to heal, link the nations

By Jan Eliasson

STOCKHOLM — The 5th session of the General Assembly closes on Sept. 13, at the end of the first half-century of the United Nations. It is time to take stock. Many expected the anniversary to be an occasion for reforming and renewing the United Nations. But the organisation's crisis is as serious as it was a year ago.

The United Nations has not recovered from setbacks suffered in Somalia, Rwanda and former Yugoslavia. The financial crisis persists, with unpaid dues close to \$3 billion. Uncertainty surrounds the coming election of the secretary-general.

The United Nations saves lives every day with its humanitarian and development programmes and successful peacekeeping operations. It remains unique as an instrument for finding global solutions to global problems. But it is not performing to capacity. It suffers from bureaucratic inertia.

Few dispute the need for change, but many fear the implications of change.

Cost-cutting and downsizing are not sufficient goals in themselves. The aim of reform must be to strengthen the organisation and identify what it is best at doing. And reform has to go hand in hand with acceptance of members' financial obligations.

The United Nations may at times be ineffective, but not because of its size. The secretariat in New York employs fewer than 5,000 staff members.

A more effective United Nations will require reform throughout the system. This will allow for a rational discussion of mandates, policy and funding. And a proper division of labour has to be found with other important actors such as regional and non-governmental organisations.

There is no lack of reform proposals. What is lacking is a common vision of why we need the United Nations and in which direction it should go. The name itself points at one fundamental objective: to unite the nations.

With interdependence and globalisation come fragmentation and marginalisation. The nation-state is challenged by integration and global markets. It is threatened by ethnic

and religious strife, civil war and social breakdown. Many countries benefit from open international relations, but others are neglected. This is not a solid basis for peace and prosperity.

The United Nations has a unique role in laying a durable foundation of solidarity and balance amid the centrifugal forces in international relations.

It is a body in which the small and poor members of the international community have a say. It is essential that there be one universal forum in which all states can deal with each other as equals. If the rights of the weak are respected, the rights of the strong will also be protected.

And it stands for ideals that are fundamental in keeping nations and societies together. Respect for human rights and basic freedoms, without distinction of race, sex, language or religion, is a key purpose set out in the U.N. Charter. So are economic and social development.

No organisation is in a better position to promote peace and democracy on a global scale. U.N. action for international peace and security should be strengthened in particular by:

- Developing the new generation of U.N. peacekeeping operations. There has to be better coordination between political, military and humanitarian efforts.

- Strengthening U.N. capability in conflict prevention. A wide range of instruments to assist states in this are at the disposal of the United Nations, regional organisations and other actors. They need to be developed and used.

- Improving consultation between the Security Council and the U.N. membership. In particular, troop-contributing countries must be more closely involved at all stages.

The United Nations was built on the vision of a world in peace and freedom, in which nations cooperate for economic and social development — a life in dignity for all. It is time to renew our commitment to that vision.

The writer, Swedish secretary of state for foreign affairs, is a former U.N. undersecretary-general for humanitarian affairs. The article is reprinted from the International Herald Tribune.

LETTERS

U.S. elections and Iraq bashing

To the Editor:

THE ATTACK of George Bush on Iraq as a last ditch to save his election prospects proved fruitless. Now Clinton is trying the same tactics, oblivious to the fact that economic conditions in his country are the most significant factor in deciding his election fortunes. But there is another side to the story.

It is not "international public opinion," conditioned by the machines of Israel Beer von Reuter and Murdoch and their henchmen, that gives the most reason for surprise. It is the "learned" in Cambridge and Harvard and hundreds of similar "liberal" institutions that have not got the courage or integrity to speak out against force that is massive, selfish, insensitive and uncivilised. At the threat of the stake, some spoke out in the Dark Ages. Those people were the torches of civilisation. Now the learned in order to keep their jobs? keep silent while at the same time teaching their students, not without a touch of sarcasm, about the dark ages. Dark ages? They need only to take their students on a tour through the corridors of their institutions. There they will 'see' the Super Darkness.

Omar Mango, Amman

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News

Jordan determined

(Continued from page 1)

private sector instead of creating obstacles which impede social and economic development," he added.

Mr. Kabariiti called on the private and public sectors to jointly shoulder responsibilities to create a climate conducive to international, regional and domestic competition.

Addressing the meeting, attended by Arab and foreign participants as well as members of the private and public sectors in Jordan, Mr. Kabariiti noted that Jordan was implementing

an economic restructuring programme in cooperation with the International Monetary Fund to create a more competitive economy.

Minister of Administrative Development Kamal Nasser told the conference that economic globalisation had fuelled competition. Therefore, he said, that countries with geographic proximity should create a climate of understanding and coordination in order to encounter greater competition.

He added that technological globalisation had also encouraged the establish-

ment of successful economic institutions.

Thus, he added, privatisation has become a necessity in order to attract foreign investments and foreign currency.

The meeting, organised by the Ministry of Administrative Development in cooperation with the World Bank, brought together participants from international organisations, and donor countries.

Participating are ministers and officials from Egypt, Kuwait, Palestine, Yemen, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Bahrain, Oman, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Morocco, Qatar, Lebanon and Tunisia.

Jordan hopes to bolster ties

(Continued from page 1)

eral economic ties as well as regional and international issues of concern to the two countries, particularly the peace process, were also discussed at the meeting, which was attended by Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf and U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Wesley Egan.

The prime minister was quoted as saying that Jordan was keen on pursuing

efforts to develop its economic ties with the U.S. and praised the U.S. role in sponsoring the Middle East peace process.

Earlier Saturday, Dr. Khalaf and Mrs. Spero held formal talks at the Ministry of Planning in the presence of the ministers of finance and transport as well as the Central Bank of Jordan governor and other officials during which a general review was made of the U.S. economic aid to the Kingdom during the past

year.

The two sides agreed to embark on negotiations on a formal agreement to organise investments and another dealing with air transport.

Also discussed at the meeting were a number of regional economic projects which are currently studied by American firms. These include projects for the development of the Jordan Rift Valley, the airport at Aqaba and preparations for the Cairo conference.

Iraq hails defeat

(Continued from page 1)

to the expansion of a "no-fly" zone to Baghdad's southern suburbs, according to U.S. officials.

"The Iraqi people were not subjugated and the Iraqi army was not weakened. The people and the Iraqi army will remain giants and their enemies dwarfs," Babel said.

In Washington, Mr. Clinton paid a similar tribute to the U.S. military personnel who launched the raids on Iraq and announced he will sign the 1997 defence spending bill to keep them ready and able.

"This week our nation's armed forces once again have shown their extraordinary skill and strength, this time in a critical mission in Iraq," Mr. Clinton said in his weekly radio address.

He reported that the missile strikes carried out Tuesday and Wednesday had successfully curbed Iraq's military might.

But the Pentagon said late Friday that only half the 44 cruise missiles fired at Iraqi air defence installations hit within 13 metres of their targets, and several did not fire at all.

Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon defended the \$1.5 million missiles, however, saying they worked as well as expected.

Fifteen Iraqi targets were selected for the cruise missile attacks and Mr. Bacon said the missile attack suppressed Iraq's air defence system in southern Iraq, and by that standard was successful.

Of eight surface-to-air missile sites targeted, five sites were severely damaged, one was damaged or vacated, and two targets were moved before the cruise missiles struck, Mr. Bacon said.

There were seven air defence and command and control targets, he said.

One was destroyed or severely damaged, four were damaged to the point they were crippled or abandoned, and there was no damage or only minor damage to two targets.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher indicated in a German newspaper interview that there might be more attacks against Iraq if Iraq failed to understand the "message" of this week's missile strikes.

In an interview with Bild Am Sonntag released ahead of publication on Sunday, Mr. Christopher was quoted as saying the cruise missile strikes against Iraq were an "appropriate response" to Iraq's incursion into the Kurdish north.

"We are satisfied with our necessary and appropriate response," Mr. Christopher told the newspaper. "It is the right message to Saddam Hussein."

Mr. Christopher added: "We very much hope that Saddam truly understands the message that we delivered. If he doesn't, we reserve the right to proceed with further appropriate steps."

The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), which was ousted from Erbil last week, said on Friday the rival Iraqi-backed Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) had attacked positions in five villages around Halabja, 10 kilometres from the Iranian border.

The PUK said KDP and Iraqi forces had started to advance from Erbil along the north route towards the PUK stronghold of Sulaimaniyah via Degala and the key town of Koi Sanjaq.

But U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry said on Friday Washington was satisfied Iraqi troops were leaving Kurdish areas after their offensive into the safe haven set up for Kurds in northern Iraq by the U.S.-led alliance after the 1991 Gulf war.

Asked by reporters in Washington if he was satisfied with the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from northern Iraq, Mr. Perry said: "So far, so good."

The Iraqi move into northern Iraq has set back U.S. covert plans to topple President Saddam, the New York Times reported Saturday.

The Times, citing an

unnamed U.S. intelligence official, said the handful of covert Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) officers overseeing the stepped-up operation in northern Iraq fled the country last week when Iraqi troops moved on Erbil.

The paper reported they were the only U.S. spies left in the mountains and valleys north of Baghdad.

The departure of the U.S. intelligence officers involved in the effort, which the paper reported President Clinton ordered expanded last January, will make the operation in northern Iraq "very difficult" to continue, the paper quoted one official as saying.

Mr. Clinton's secret order directed the CIA to provide weapons, organise some military training and install intelligence gathering equipment for the groups seeking to overthrow President Saddam, the officials said.

The CIA was reportedly spending some \$20 million this year on removing the Iraqi leader from power, the paper reported.

Iraq's ruling Baath Party on Saturday urged Arabs to use more than statements and declarations to retaliate against the "American aggression."

"Statements and declarations condemning the American aggression are not enough," the Baath Party leadership said in a statement carried in the official press.

"So that support for Iraq has an effect on American enemies and their servants, it is necessary to adopt other means of struggle," the statement said without elaborating.

"Faced with plots targeting Iraq, Palestine, South Lebanon, the occupied (Golan) Heights ... and the conspiracy of governments which have squandered the nation's wealth, we need a firm and efficient stand," it said. This would be "in line with a new programme of struggle and new means of collective action," it added.

Turkey presses 'security zone' plan

(Continued from page 1)

Seini as she carried personal belongings on her back down the road outside Banek.

"The Turks and (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein both...kill us when they can. We need the United States to come and save us," Seini, 70, said.

Turkish troops and armour have massed along the rugged border in recent days, but so far no large-scale operation has been launched.

Britain has said it "understood" Turkey's desire to strengthen security on its border with Iraq, but has asked Ankara not to intervene militarily in a manner which "could inflame further the situation" in the region.

Baghdad has rejected Turkey's project, saying it is a "violation of Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity."

Russia warned that the Turkish plan would seriously violate Iraq's sovereignty and may further destabilise the situation in the region.

"Whatever the motivation for this move, it represents a serious violation of the territorial integrity of a sovereign country," the Russian foreign ministry said.

"Given the present rather tense situation in the region, such an action by Ankara may only destabilise the situation even more," it said.

Syria firmly told Turkey that it was against the Turkish

plan, saying the move threatened Iraq's national integrity.

The official Syrian News Agency (SANA) said the Syrian Foreign Ministry summoned the Turkish ambassador in Damascus to convey the message that Syria "is against the security zone in the Iraqi lands under whatever pretext might be."

"Setting such zones contradicts the United Nations Charter and the articles of the international law," SANA said. "It contradicts all the announced positions of Turkey," the agency said, referring to meetings among Syria, Iraq and Turkey in which participants have stressed their commitment to maintaining Iraq's unity.

GCC studies its options

(Continued from page 1)

action. Baghdad has been under crippling U.N. sanctions since it invaded the emirate.

Delegates remained tight-lipped after the first round of talks, clearly reluctant to openly criticise the United States which plays a key military role in protecting their oil rich countries.

A Kuwaiti delegate, expressing his country's "understanding for the tough American action," said his country was seeking support for the action from fellow GCC members although other delegates said this was unlikely.

Mr. Ben Allawi, whose country currently chairs the six-member GCC, said after the first meeting that "the issue is sensitive and delicate."

He added that the Kuwaiti proposal would be discussed during an evening session of talks.

Nuri Nejm Al Marsumi, undersecretary at Iraq's culture and information ministry, on Saturday urged the Gulf states to settle disputes and establish peace in the region without U.S. intervention.

Iraq on Friday appealed to Gulf states to bury past grievances and condemn "American aggression" against Iraq.

Newspapers in Qatar and the UAE said the Gulf foreign ministers must also take a firm stand against Turkish plans to set up a security zone inside Iraq.

Al Bayan daily from the UAE urged the GCC ministers to reject the plan to create security zones aimed at prevent-

ing Turkish Kurdish separatists from launching cross-border attacks on Turkey. It urged them to defend "Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity."

"The Arabs can only reject the 'security zones' as they rejected the security zone" which Israel has established in South Lebanon," it said.

The Turkish plan was also sharply denounced by two other UAE dailies, Al Khaleej and Al Itihad, as well as by Qatar's newspapers Al Watan and Al Raya.

"It's the recent American military attack against Iraq which encouraged Turkey to envisage the creation of security zones, which violates the sovereignty and territorial integrity of this Arab country," Al Watan said.

"The American crime is a dangerous precedent in international relations," said Al Raya, which hailed the failure of Britain to win enough support in the U.N. Security Council for condemnation of Iraq's raid into Kurdistan.

Al Itihad charged that "the American attack does not seek to punish the Iraqi regime but rather to destroy systematically a country and starve an Arab people."

"The U.S.-Iraqi confrontation has turned into an incitement from neighbouring countries Iran and Turkey to destroy Iraq," the paper said.

Al Khaleej daily, referring to the U.S. election campaign, asked: "Does the path to the White House have to lead through Iraqi territory?"

Christopher urges Israel

(Continued from page 1)

fortable relationship with Arafat."

Mr. Arafat said on Saturday that peace in the Middle East was still in grave danger despite his landmark meeting with Mr. Netanyahu.

Speaking at an international business forum at a north Italian lakeside resort, Mr. Arafat appealed to the European Union (EU) to lend its support to boosting the shattered Palestinian economy and reviving the stalled peace process.

Mr. Arafat said Israel was threatening peace by failing to implement outstanding issues in a 1993 peace deal between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), such as the withdrawal of its troops from Hebron and other parts of the West Bank.

"This peace process faces real dangers as a result of the policies of the new Israeli government," said Mr. Arafat.

He attacked Israel's policies "on the issue of holy Jerusalem, where it forbids Muslims and Christians from carrying out their religious rites, its deliberate delay to redeploy from the city of Hebron and its deliberate delay to carry out the pending issues

of the transition stage."

Mr. Arafat said on Friday evening that the 1993 peace agreement signed by Israel and the PLO must be respected. "We are not asking for the moon, we are asking for what has been agreed upon and what has been signed to be implemented," Mr. Arafat said.

Mr. Arafat's meeting with the newly-elected Netanyahu at a brief summit on Wednesday was "the ice-breaker, shattering a barrier put up by certain circles to block the peace process, the peace of the brave," the Palestinian leader said.

Mr. Arafat was quoted by Italian daily La Repubblica on Saturday as saying that it was too early to determine whether the meeting with Mr. Netanyahu had made any real progress.

"Frankly, I am still not able to say whether it was just a symbolic propaganda meeting or one of substance," Mr. Arafat told the newspaper in an interview.

Mr. Arafat said he had told the Israeli premier that extremists from both sides were working together to frustrate the cause of peace. He added that a meeting with Israel's defence

minister scheduled for Sunday, had been put off at Israel's request until Thursday.

"I told him another thing. Do you know, and if not ask your security services, that the two extremists — Israeli and Palestinian — are collaborating to block the peace process?" Mr. Arafat told La Repubblica.

The closure imposed on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip by the Israeli authorities was costing the Palestinian economy \$7 million a day, Mr. Arafat said.

"The situation is worsening and despair is spreading ... This will increase the state of frustration and despair. It will lead to extremism. The consequence will be strengthening the elements opposing the peace process in the region," he added.

"I would like to emphasise, once more, the importance of your support to salvage the peace process from the dangerous impasse in which it is passing," Mr. Arafat told an audience of European businessmen, politicians and retired statesmen, including former German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and former French President Valery

Prime minister urges new agricultural Policy

(Continued from page 1)

national scheme aimed at increasing the Kingdom's wheat production.

Quoted by Al Ra'i Arabic daily, the minister said that the plan aims at helping Jordan produce an additional 150,000 tonnes of wheat annually through cultivating 950,000 dunums of land in rain-fed, and irrigated lands.

The Agricultural Council on Saturday reviewed recommendations by a national committee connected with promoting the agricultural production and encouraging farmers to grow more cereals and plant more fruit trees, particularly

vines and dates, as well as measures for saving on water consumption.

The committee had recommended that the government write off part of the loans to the farmers, improve the quality of water in the King Talal Dam and include a special clause on agriculture wherever this is possible in trade agreements with other countries.

The committee had also recommended that further facilities be offered to the farmers to help them export more agricultural products to Arab states and provide loans to encourage exports.

EU to press for early implementation

(Continued from page 1)

France considers the U.S. missile strikes earlier this week, ordered in reaction to the Iraqi army's entry into northern Iraq, were also an infringement of Iraqi sovereignty that cannot be justified by U.N. Security Council resolutions passed after the 1991 Gulf war.

Greece's Foreign Minister Theodore Pangalos accused the United States of hypocrisy for attacking Iraq for persecuting its Kurdish population while turning a blind eye to their "slaughter" by Turkey.

"I can't understand why the Kurds have to be preserved from Saddam Hussein and Turkey should be encouraged to slaughter them," Mr. Pangalos said.

Russia also attacked Turkey's role in the crisis Saturday, warning the planned security

zone would seriously violate Iraq's sovereignty and further destabilise the regional situation.

Senior sources ruled out again Saturday French participation in enforcing a "no-fly" zone which the United States wants to extend to within 50 kilometres of Baghdad.

Arriving for the talks, Mr. Rifkind reiterated London's belief that the U.S. action had been right.

"If some people don't like that tough action, then they must present a credible and convincing alternative strategy that would be more likely, or at least as likely, to produce the same outcome," he said.

"We have not heard that alternative, and until we do, I believe the U.S. deserves our full support. The world must send a clear message to Iraq. Further aggression will bring

further response," he said.

Irish diplomats acknowledged it would not be possible to overcome the fundamental differences here but indicated that there would be an attempt to establish a consensus on the need for speedy resolution of the U.N. resolution allowing Iraq to sell a limited amount of oil to fund emergency food purchases.

Mr. Rifkind, said French opposition to the recent U.S. air strikes in Iraq did not reflect the majority view within the EU.

"It's no use saying what the Americans did will not resolve the problem. The fact is that the Americans have taken tough action. We know from the past that is what Saddam Hussein respects," said Mr. Rifkind in a BBC interview shortly before the informal meeting.

Mr. Rifkind said he

very much hoped that all European countries could agree to give their backing to such American action.

Mr. Rifkind said it was also important to remember that France remains an active member in the coalition in Iraq. "It (France) had a difference of view with the U.S. on this particular occasion but it remains involved in enforcing the no-fly zone and is part of the international coalition," he said.

Mr. Rifkind attempted to play down the broader significance of the split.

There were "differences of emphasis and analysis" but France shared London's condemnation of the Iraqi army's attacks on its Kurdish population and remained committed to policing the existing "no-fly" zone, he said.

But while Britain and France appeared willing

to agree to disagree, other EU states have seen the episode as a further indication of the need to radically overhaul its policy-making structures to ensure it can make its huge economic weight felt on the world stage.

"It is a very damaging situation because it leaves us on the margins of international life," Mr. Pangalos said.

If we do not have a unified position we are not going to be heard."

An extraordinary one-day summit of EU leaders has been fixed for Oct. 5 in Dublin, diplomats said on the sidelines of the Tralee meeting.

The summit is intended to speed up negotiations in the intergovernmental conference on the future of the union.

Donors discuss aid to Palestinians

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Pre-bid conference to help government select strategic partner for the Jordan Cement Factories Company

By Samir Ghawi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In order to achieve better understanding over the proposed partial sale of government equity in the Jordan Cement Factories Company to a "strategic" partner, a pre-bid conference will convene on Thursday between the parties concerned, Jordan Investment Corporation (JIC) Director-General Mohammad Bataineh told the Jordan Times.

Mr. Bataineh said that representatives from 10 international companies specialising in the cement industry will participate in the conference which will also be attended by senior

officials from the Jordan Cement Factories Company and from the government.

According to the JIC chief, the government would like to sell 20 per cent of its stake to a firm that can provide the cement company with technical know-how and advanced technology in studying and analysing raw materials, protecting the environment, and reducing production costs in general.

Such modern and efficient techniques will enable Jordan to improve the competitiveness of its cement and to ensure a higher volume of sales to neighbouring countries, especially the Palestinian areas, Israel and Syria, Mr. Bataineh said.

He added that the World

Bank was advising the Kingdom in this regard and will be a participant in the conference to provide the necessary expertise and experience to the Jordanian side and to help evaluate the best partner to bring the highest degree of development to the Jordanian cement industry.

Upgrading the quality of the output, lowering the production costs and maximising the efficiency of the factories are seen as key elements to guarantee that the Jordanian cement industry stays a leader in the region beyond 2001, the year when the concession agreement between the company and the government ends, Mr. Bataineh explained.

The latest financial data made available to the Jordan Times Saturday shows that the company was able to generate a JD 11.97 million gross profit during the first half of this year. The amount is JD 1.03 million or 9.5 per cent higher than the gross profit posted at the end of June 1995.

However, due to the increase in the prices of fuel oil and electricity from May 1, 1996 without raising the price of cement, the company's net profit amounted to JD 6.16 million, JD 372,000 less than the figure registered during the same period last year.

The statement showed a total of 1.52 million tonnes of clinker output that was four per cent more than the

corresponding period of last year. Cement production was one per cent higher, rising by 18,538 tonnes to 1.61 million tonnes.

An official source at the company attributed the rise in production and sales to the stability in the operations and to higher exports to Arab and foreign markets.

Exports were 18 per cent, or 64,440 tonnes, higher as they totalled 416,000 tonnes during the first half of this year. Local sales totalled 1,204,000 tonnes.

The company last month completed some projects for upgrading a number of production lines that will reflect positively on the productivity and profitability of the company.

China looking for foreign capital to boost exports of motorbikes

BEIJING (AFP) — China, the world's biggest manufacturer of motorbikes, is looking for foreign capital to boost production quality and promote sales abroad, the China daily has said.

Motorbike output was 770,000 units in 1987, rising to 5.34 million in 1994 and 7.83 million last year, 90 per cent of which came from joint-venture factories.

Virtually all of the production was for the Chinese market.

Domestic sales, however, have hit a trough: production in the first six months of the year was 4.25 million units, more than 10 per cent of which was still unsold.

Manufacturers are planning to build bigger, better quality bikes and export them, he said.

By 2000, sales of bikes and components by Chinese firms should be worth \$3.2 billion, 10 per cent of which should be derived from abroad.

However, the expansion plan may run into legal hurdles, as under Chinese regulations foreign firms are not allowed to set up more than two plants manufacturing the same type of vehicle.

There are big plants operated by Honda and Yamaha.

The government may get around this by authorising "four to five motorcycle manufacturing enterprises to grow and compete" under a quota system in which each group would manufacture around 1.2 million units.

Some joint-ventures could even transplant production abroad, the report said.

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
AMMAN STOCK EXCHANGE											
ORGANISED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SEPTEMBER 07/09/1996											
PRICE	12 MONTHS	COMPANY'S NAME	F / S	DIV.	NO. OF	NO. OF	VALUE	OPEN	CLOSE	CHANGE	
HIGH	LOW				TRANS.	SHARES	TRADED	PRICE	PRICE		
250.000	205.000	ARAB BANK	13.1	1.46	94	5000	1200015	238.50	239.00	+.50	
1.310	.880	MID-EAST INV. BK.	63.1	0.00	14	12000	11408	.93	.96	+.03	
2.700	2.120	JORDANIAN DEV. BK.	5.0	8.36	3	150	1213	2.29	2.29	.00	
8.700	4.260	THE HOUSING BK.	13.5	2.03	7	500	2178	4.88	4.88	.00	
3.040	2.600	JOR. KURALT BANK	19.1	0.00	9	111	1347	2.65	2.63	-.02	
1.140	.800	JOR. GEN. BANK	5.4	7.69	5	150	1775	.91	.91	.00	
2.130	3.300	JOR. TRADING BANK	17.3	0.00	20	1150	4100	3.58	3.61	+.03	
4.000	3.000	JOR. INV. FIN. BANK	17.3	0.00	2	1250	3400	3.10	3.20	+.10	
3.430	2.330	SEIT. AL-JAHAL (BANKING)	1.5	6.41	1	1850	4366	2.34	2.34	.00	
1.090	.910	JORDAN BANK INTL.	9	0.00	33	35000	11978	1.21	1.22	+.01	
1.640	1.000	PELLEL. INV. BK.	5	0.00	10	1428	1817	1.12	1.13	+.01	
BANK SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 183.20 (CHG: +0.54) 194 92331 1281588											
2.210	2.150	JOR. FRENCH TRUST.	6.2	3.08	1	100	221	2.20	2.21	+.01	
1.840	1.510	ARAB TRV. TRUST.	7.0	8.85	1	100	325	1.95	1.98	+.03	
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 121.25 (CHG: -0.27) 3 425 897											
1.900	1.480	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	10.8	7.69	19	11555	17928	1.58	1.46	-.12	
6.080	4.650	ARAB TRV. TRUST.	16.3	3.13	3	1000	4800	4.80	4.80	.00	
2.130	1.080	HALE. PORTFOLIO	10.0	0.00	37	14934	18424	2.18	2.22	+.04	
1.160	.880	REAL ESTATE INV.	20.4	3.46	1	500	480	.88	.92	+.04	
1.260	.600	JORDAN TRV. TRUST.	12.8	0.00	1	100	61	.61	.61	.00	
10.310	9.290	AL-JAHAL TRV. TRUST.	1.0	0.00	1	1000	9830	9.29	9.38	+.09	
7.440	3.780	MID-EAST TRV. TRUST.	76.7	0.00	3	950	1691	1.78	1.78	.00	
1.480	.950	KARMA EDUCATION	9	0.00	3	350	378	1.08	1.08	.00	
2.430	.910	ORIENTED TRV. TRUST.	9	8.48	1	100	1106	1.21	1.22	+.01	
1.200	.820	ORION LAND DEV.	5	0.00	10	3082	2878	.93	.96	+.03	
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 110.95 (CHG: -0.25) 79 34069 58894											
3.770	3.060	JOR. CONSUM. PWR.	19.0	3.00	21	4789	19599	3.36	3.33	-.03	
3.880	2.700	JOR. MEDICAL RES.	21.5	0.00	1	1367	4054	2.90	2.93	+.03	
1.860	.780	ARAB TRV. TRUST.	16.4	3.69	4	620	3402	5.52	5.43	-.09	
10.580	8.720	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	9.4	8.64	8	187	1731	9.28	9.26	-.02	
7.600	7.000	JORDAN TRADING	7.7	5.03	1	83	692	7.15	7.15	.00	
1.750	.650	INDUSTRIAL COM. CORP.	24.7	0.00	1	100	884	1.75	1.84	+.09	
8.120	6.420	JOR. WORSTED MILLS	9.1	3.82	1	50	355	7.10	7.10	.00	
5.050	3.100	ARAB TRV. TRUST.	20.9	5.25	40	6929	26348	3.73	3.81	+.08	
6.000	2.090	JORDAN TRV. TRUST.	19.0	7.14	1	100	210	2.10	2.10	.00	
4.390	3.100	JOR. PAPER CORP.	17.5	2.93	1	250	883	3.41	3.41	.00	
8.000	4.250	DAR AL-ANDALUS TRV. TRUST.	13.2	4.18	28	6916	33354	4.70	4.82	+.12	
1.740	.450	LIVERPOOL & LONDON	10.0	0.00	111	21990	202809	.63	.64	+.01	
1.500	1.050	AMAR PAPER CORP. TWO	8.6	8.18	3	1500	1905	1.20	1.27	+.07	
1.210	.660	NATIONAL TRV. TRUST.	20.1	0.00	14	7750	6270	.67	.68	+.01	
1.370	1.040	JORDAN TRV. TRUST.	19.0	0.00	7	2850	3119	1.09	1.09	.00	
2.160	1.050	ARAB TRV. TRUST.	27.7	0.00	84	9850	14548	1.42	1.48	+.06	
1.380	.680	UNIV. MOD. INDUS.	5.4	33.34	38	12180	21626	1.70	1.78	+.08	
1.140	1.100	JOR. TRV. TRUST.	17.2	0.00	18	4850	6428	1.37	1.37	.00	
1.700	.950	JOR. NEW CARS CO.	26.3	0.00	17	7428	7311	.95	.97	+.02	
1.460	1.750	EL-SAYED TRV. TRUST.	8	0.00	6	1082	1824	1.81	1.81	.00	
1.490	1.090	TRV. TRUST.	27.3	0.00	17	6050	7031	1.33	1.35	+.02	
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 110.26 (CHG: -0.82) 373 307648 358496											
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 145.38 (CHG: -0.10) 651 514473 1897459											
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SEPTEMBER 07/09/1996											
PRICE	12 MONTHS	COMPANY'S NAME	F / S	DIV.	NO. OF	NO. OF	VALUE	OPEN	CLOSE	CHANGE	
HIGH	LOW				TRANS.	SHARES	TRADED	PRICE	PRICE		
1.950	.440	NATL. COMMER. CORP.	2	0.00	4	163	78	.48	.49	+.01	
1.960	.560	UNION TRV. TRUST.	59.8	0.00	14	2850	5636	.73	.73	.00	
1.200	.520	ARAB TRV. TRUST.	2	0.00	12	10250	5495	.82	.84	+.02	
1.350	.750	UNIV. MOD. INDUS.	7	0.00	8	792	802	.76	.76	.00	
1.910	.910	ARAB TRV. TRUST.	1	0.00	82	16750	11978	1.49	1.49	.00	
1.770	1.370	NATL. CHLORIDE	8	0.00	9	5975	6405	1.39	1.41	+.02	
2.160	.530	NATL. TRV. TRUST.	8	0.00	3	1400	746	.53	.54	+.01	
2.100	.550	NATL. TRV. TRUST.	8	0.00	8	18500	16580	.50	.56	+.06	
1.910	.510	NATL. TRV. TRUST.	8	0.00	3	306	140	.51	.51	.00	
1.080	.770	JORDAN TRV. TRUST.	2	0.00	10	3900	3058	.78	.79	+.01	
.840	.430	ARAB TRV. TRUST.	2	0.00	10	8150	2924	.50	.53	+.03	
.830	.430	ARAB TRV. TRUST.	2	0.00	2	2000	390	.43	.43	.00	
.840	.430	ARAB TRV. TRUST.	2	0.00	8	3124	878	.63	.63	.00	
.890	.440	IND. TRV. TRUST.	12.0	0.00	3	2260	1170	.50	.50	.00	
1.460	.770	IND. TRV. TRUST.	8	0.00	20	8009	6419	.78	.81	+.03	
1.500	.530	MID-EAST COMPLEX	8.6	0.00	18	21500	15588	.72	.73	+.01	
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 145.38 (CHG: -0.10) 651 514473 1897459											

DAILY BUSINESS BEAT

A review of news from the Arabic press

Arab Potash Company likely to begin industrial potash production in 1997

** AT A cost of \$9 million, the Arab Potash Company will start in the coming few weeks to build a plant for producing industrial potash which, in 1998, will enter in the manufacturing of television and computer screens in addition to many other industries. According to Suleiman Hawari, the company's general manager, the industrial potash plant is expected to begin actual production towards the end of 1997. He said that a consortium of Ger-

Jordan Islamic Bank boosts mid-year profit by 49.5% to JD 20.68 million

** AT JD20.68 million in investment profit by the end of June 1996, the Jordan Islamic Bank has achieved a 49.5 per cent increase over the mid-year figure posted at the end of June 1995. During the first half of this year, total deposits at the bank rose by 4.1 per cent reaching JD 536.18 million of which JD 521.27 million were from clients and the rest from banking institutions.

Mousa Shehadeh, the bank's general manager, revealed that the volume of financing and investments, in the Islamic forms of partnership, profit-sharing and speculation as well as other investments, amounted to JD457.3 million, 9.3 per cent higher than the volume at the end of June 1995. He indicated that the bank's assets grew by 3.7 per cent and that the mid-year balance sheet total stood at JD644.8 million. Shareholders' equity was close to JD 42 million. Mr. Shehadeh said (Al Aswaq).

REUTERS • THE BUSINESS OF INFORMATION

Major Currencies & Cross Rates											
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NYP	FRF		
US Dollar	1.4925	0.6410	1.2185	1.0925	1.3730	1514.00	16730	5.0980			
DE Mark	0.6700	0.4292	0.8163	0.7321	0.8196	1014.07	11209	3.4151			
GB Sterling	1.5800	1.5600	1.8915	1.7070	2.1419	2361.84	26099	7.9528			
CHF Franc	0.8207	1.2244	0.9257	0.8656	1.1283	1242.00	13745	4.1821			
JP Yen	0.0092	1.3649	0.8560	1.1143	1.2556	13.85	152.99	4.6521			
CAD Dollar	0.7283	0.8867	0.8872	0.7336	0.8063	1102.37	12181	3.7116			
IT Lira	0.0007	0.9851	0.4230	0.8084	1.0863	11.04	13.650	3.3650			
NYP Dollar	0.5877	0.6118	0.3828	0.7252	0.8204	904.69	10463	3.0463			
FR Franc	0.1982	0.2927	0.1257	0.23892	0.2693	32.81	32.8100				
Energy											
Oil	Unit	Previous									
Brent	22.05	22.60									
WTI	22.60	23.40									
Bony	23.05	22.80									
Dubai	19.35	19.55									
UL Gas	213.00	214.00									
Mid-East Currencies											
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY						

Hill takes pole for Italian GP

MONZA (R) — Briton Damon Hill won an early psychological advantage in his world title showdown with Williams teammate Jacques Villeneuve of Canada on Saturday when he grabbed pole position for Sunday's Italian Grand Prix.

Hill, driving with huge determination, clocked the fastest time on his first flying run midway through the session and then trimmed it later to a best lap of one minute 24.204 seconds.

Villeneuve, 13 points behind in the drivers' championship and needing at least a podium finish to keep the title race alive if Hill wins, was second fastest in 1:24.521.

Villeneuve had recovered from a violent spin during morning practice when he was blocked by Pedro Diniz of Brazil driving a Ligier.

Hill's success brought him his seventh pole position of the season, but his first since the German Grand Prix in July when he overcame a poor start to win.

It was also the 19th pole position of Hill's Formula One career.

Double world champion Michael Schumacher of Germany, seeking his first victory on Italian soil since joining Ferrari this year, finished as the third-fastest driver, ahead of Finland's Mika Hakkinen in a McLaren.

Briton David Coulthard, in the second McLaren, was fifth-fastest and



British Formula One driver Damon Hill

Frenchman Jean Alesi, in a Benetton, sixth.

The session took place on another perfect late summer's afternoon in northern Italy with blue skies and warm sunshine bringing out a big crowd of Ferrari fans.

They were hoping that Schumacher could repeat his victorious win in Belgium and his fastest lap in Friday's opening practice.

In the conditions, it was disappointing that no cars ventured out on the track until 17 minutes of the session had elapsed.

Benetton driver Gerhard Berger was among the first to emerge, but his early charge ended in a big spin at the first chicane.

Villeneuve recorded the best lap before Hill came out and took control.

Hill said of his pole position: "It is particularly satisfying for a number of reasons. You know what the reasons are — they are pretty obvious — but I think I was as fast in qualifying as I have been all season."

Hill was referring to the decision by Williams to replace him with German Heinz-Harald Frentzen, whether he wins the world title or not. Frentzen qualified 13th in his debut.

Asked if there was likely to be any discussion of a non-aggression pact with Villeneuve at the first corner in Sunday's race, Hill

replied: "It would be a pretty pointless conversation. I'd have thought."

"It is going to be a fight tomorrow, to see who can win the race."

Villeneuve, who had attempted to unsettle Hill with laughter while the Briton was speaking, complained about the kerbs at the circuit and criticised Diniz for his driving in the morning.

"He is one of those idiot drivers who shouldn't be in Formula One," he said.

He said he was reasonably satisfied with his second place on the grid for such a decisive race after losing 10 laps of his preparations following the incident.

Romanian athlete banned for life

BUCHAREST (R) — Romania's Athletics Federation (RAF) has banned distance runner athlete Elena Murgoci for life for taking anabolic steroids, its general secretary Traian Badea said on Saturday.

"Murgoci tested positive for the second time in recent years, so the ban was maximum," Badea said.

Murgoci, 32, a former champion half-marathon runner, used the banned drug nandrolone, he added.

Badea said long jumper Marieta Ilcu and high jumper Monica Jager were also banned — Ilcu for four years and Jager for six months for taking the same drug.

"Jager's six months ban is unusual for the athletics world, but she asked for more time to defend herself," Badea said. "And the Romanian Athletics Federation has agreed with this."

Sugar says no settlement reached with Venables

LONDON (AFP) — Spurs chairman Alan Sugar on Saturday denied reports that he has settled his ongoing dispute with former England boss Terry Venables.

Sugar issued a statement to counter newspaper reports which claimed an out-of-court settlement had been reached in Sugar's libel action arising from Venables' autobiography.

The Spurs supremo said: "It is true that there have been recent discussions between lawyers. But no settlement has been reached."

"Clifford Chance, the lawyers representing Terry Venables, specifically requested last week that any discussions to date be kept strictly confidential."

Sugar said it appeared that Clifford Chance were unable to control their

client in the wake of "the misleading and inaccurate statements" allegedly issued by Venables' associates to the press.

But he went on: "I am confident that when this case is concluded, either by agreement or full trial, that the outcome will be clear for all to see."

Venables today countered Sugar's statement by insisting: "I am very happy with the situation. I am told that I am not now needed in court in October or November."

"The situation is tied up. The only thing that is left is for the judge to decide over discussion about costs because he (Alan Sugar) could be responsible for both sides' costs."

"He is just trying to take the sting out of anything that may be coming."

GP to remain three-day meetings

MONZA (R) — Grand Prix meetings will remain three days' duration next season, International Automobile Federation (FIA) President Max Mosley said on Saturday.

Less than three weeks ago in a package of reforms said to have been agreed by most of the teams, Mosley announced that Friday practice would be scrapped following qualification on Saturday followed by the race on Sunday.

Mosley said that a meeting of the signatories to the controversial new 1997 Concorde Agreement — the binding contract between the teams and the governing body — had reconsidered its earlier decision.

After considering objections from individual race promoters and studying television statistics for Friday practice sessions, the teams decided to retain that

day, Mosley said.

He said the format of future grand prix racing would be essentially the same as this year. He added that several other alterations had been made to the original proposals to revolutionise the sport.

These included allowing teams to conduct a 50 km 'shakedown' test of their cars in the week of a grand prix and the introduction in January of a four-day test session outside Europe.

Previously the FIA had been opposed to winter testing for a month after the end of the season and had banned testing in the week before each race.

Mosley said the FIA planned to introduce treaded tyres to Formula One in a bid to reduce cornering speeds, but was still studying the technical data to ensure that it was understood fully in readiness for

1998. He said the Formula One technical working group, comprising the teams' engineers, could not find any satisfactory way yet of reducing cornering speeds through aerodynamic regulation changes.

Mosley suggested that the row which had led to Williams, McLaren and Tyrrell refusing to sign the new agreement because they were unhappy with the plans for the future of the sport, particularly control of commercial rights, had been settled.

He said Williams had formally requested an opportunity to become a signatory to the agreement — a request that required the approval of all the signatories — and that he had been told that McLaren and Tyrrell were expected to follow suit.

Murray hits 500th homer but O's lose ground to Yankees

NEW YORK (R) — Eddie Murray hit his historic 500th home run Friday, but it came in a losing cause as his Baltimore Orioles slipped further behind the New York Yankees in the American League east pennant race.

Cecil Fielder homered twice, including a tie-breaking solo shot in the eighth inning, and Mariano Rivera blew a save but rebounded to lead the first-place Yankees to a 4-3 win over the visiting Toronto Blue Jays, widening New York's lead in the AL East to five games.

Fielder, who led off the third with a homer, started the eighth with his 35th of the season to give New York a 4-3 lead and complete his 32nd career multi-homer game.

"It doesn't matter where it comes from or who gets it done, we just need runs," fielder said.

New York has won five of its last seven games. The win was New York's 100th straight when leading after eight innings. The Yankees have not blown a lead heading into the ninth since August 24 of last season.

In Baltimore, Bob Higginson singled home Phil Nevin with the game-winning run in the 12th inning as the Detroit Tigers beat the Orioles 5-4.

Murray became the 15th member of the 500-home run club with a solo shot in the seventh inning, his first homer in a week. It came on the first pitch from Tigers starter Felipe Lira and lifted the Orioles into a 3-3 tie.

Murray is the third player in Major-League history to have 500 homers and 3,000 hits in his career, joining immortals Willie Mays and Hank Aaron.

In Chicago, Mo Vaughn had four hits and scored three runs and Bill Haselman added three hits

and two RBI as the Boston Red Sox pounded the White Sox 10-3.

The victory moved the Red Sox within 2 1/2 games of Chicago, which leads the wild-card race.

Tim Lincecum (12-12) pitched seven innings and raised his record to 7-3 since the all-star break. He gave up three runs and eight hits with six walks and three strikeouts.

In Milwaukee, John Burkett came within one out of a complete game and Juan Gonzalez had a two-run double to snap a fifth-inning tie and added his 43rd homer as the Texas Rangers defeated the Brewers 7-3.

Burkett (3-1) allowed three runs — two earned — and seven hits before leaving with two out in the ninth.

Gonzalez has 129 RBI, four behind Cleveland's Albert Belle for the Major-League lead.

The Rangers increased their lead in the AL West to 6 1/2 games over Seattle. In Minnesota, Brad Radke tossed a five-hitter for his first career complete game and Pat Meares broke a tie with a two-run single in the seventh as the Twins defeated the California Angels 6-2.

In Oakland, Willie Adams (3-2) allowed one run over seven innings and errors by shortstop Jose Offerman and third baseman Craig Paquette allowed two runs to score in the fifth as the Athletics beat the Kansas City Royals 7-1.

The game in Cleveland between the Seattle Mariners and the Indians was postponed due to rain and will be made up a part of a doubleheader Sunday.

Dodgers edge Pirates

Brett Butler, back after tonsil cancer surgery, scored the winning run on



Baltimore Orioles' Eddie Murray follows through on a pitch from Detroit Tigers' Felipe Lira (ball shown upper left) in the seventh inning at Camden Yards September 6 for his 500th career home run. Murray becomes only the third player in history, behind Hank Aaron and Willie Mays, to have hit 500 home runs and 3,000 hits in a career (Reuters photo)

Eric Karros's sacrifice fly in the eighth inning as the Los Angeles Dodgers edged the Pittsburgh Pirates 2-1 Friday.

Butler helped spark Los Angeles into a first-place tie with the Padres in the National League West. The Dodgers have won 11 of their last 14 games.

In St. Louis, Brian Jordan's three-run homer highlighted a four-run fourth inning and Gary Gaetti also had three RBI to lead the Cardinals to their seventh straight win, 8-3 over the San Diego Padres.

St. Louis, which had not won seven in a row since September 1988, maintained its 1 1/2-game lead over second-place Houston in the National League Central.

Cards starter Alan Benes held San Diego without a hit before Chris Gomez singled to open the fifth. Two outs, one error and a Tony Gwynn RBI single later, Steve Finley knocked Benes out of the game lining an RBI shot off his right wrist.

In Atlanta, Terry Pendleton drove in the winning run with a one-out single in the bottom of the ninth as the Braves snapped a season-high five-game

losing streak, 8-7 over the New York Mets.

A two-base error by second baseman Edgardo Alfonzo, who dropped Chipper Jones' pop-up, started the game-winning rally for the Braves, who got a pair of homers from Javier Lopez.

In Philadelphia, Kevin Stocker's second error of the seventh inning allowed Mark Grace to score the go-ahead run as the Chicago Cubs used a three-run seventh inning without the benefit of a hit to defeat the Phillies 6-4.

Stocker, who entered the game ranked second in fielding among National League shortstops, had committed only nine errors in 101 games.

Ryne Sandberg's solo homer in the fourth for Chicago was his 23rd of the season and 263rd of his career as a second baseman, tying him with Rogers Hornsby for second on the all-time list for second basemen. Former Red Joe Morgan holds the record with 266.

In Houston, Kirt Manwaring had three hits, including the first of consecutive two-out doubles with Bill Spiers that scored the go-ahead run in the

eighth, and Danny Darwin and Xavier Hernandez combined on a two-hitter as the Astros edged the Colorado Rockies 2-1.

Darwin, who left after seven innings with back spasms, allowed a run and two hits without a walk and three strikeouts as the Astros stopped a four-game losing streak. Hernandez (5-4) threw two hitless innings. In Cincinnati, the Reds and Giants split a doubleheader in contrasting fashion.

In the opener, Cuban right-hander Oswaldo Fernandez (7-13) scattered four hits over eight innings. Bill Mueller doubled in a run and Genallen Hill hit a solo homer as San Francisco blanked the Reds 2-0.

The Reds won the second game in a 14-1 rout. Hal Morris, Keith Mitchell and Bret Boone homered for Cincinnati. Mike Morgan (5-8) allowed one run over 5 1/3 innings in a successful debut after being claimed off waivers from St. Louis earlier in the week.

In Florida, Mark Hutton combined with Jay Powell on a seven-hitter and Jeff Conine went 4-for-4 to pace the Marlins to a 4-0 win over the Montreal Expos.

Herta leads provisional Indy qualifying

MONTEREY (R) — Indycar's three-way title hunt took a back seat, when American, Bryan Herta earned the provisional pole for the series finale at Laguna Seca Raceway Friday.

Herta, who has one career Indycar pole, turned a lap of 68.019 seconds in a Reynard Mercedes-Benz on the renovated 11-turn, 2.238 mile (3.602 km) sports car circuit in Northern California.

Teammates Mark Blundell of Britain and Mauricio Gugelmin of Brazil, both former Formula One drivers, were second and third fastest at 68.362 and 68.479 seconds respectively in Reynard Ford Cosworths.

Series points leader Jimmy Vasser, who comes into the race with a 14-point lead over Michael Andretti and a 17-point lead over Al Unser Jr., was fourth fastest at 68.480 in a Reynard Honda in his bid for his first championship.

"We had a bit of a problem early," Vasser said. "A gasket blew on the pop-off valve and that cost us some time in the pits."

He shrugged off any suggestion of stress caused by the series title chase going down to the last race. "We, the whole team, we're

trying to treat this just like another race. All of our guys give 100 per cent every weekend and this isn't any different in that respect."

Andretti, who drives a Lola Ford Cosworth, was 11th fastest at 68.948 seconds. He had a handling problem in the session and said: "I have too much understeer to go faster. It's the same way in all of the corners."

But he was confident about improving in Saturday's final session. "It's still early," the 1991 champion said. "We know we have to catch Jimmy, so it's just time to go for it."

Unser, a two-time series champion, is the third driver with a mathematical chance at the title but had a difficult day as he spun off the course and later crashed into a wall at turn six.

"I was coming up the Hill at turn six and I was just trying too hard. Unfortunately, I damaged the car's rear wing, both sides of the rear suspension and the gearbox," said Unser. Final qualifying for Sunday's 83-lap, 185.75 mile (298.927 km) race was to take place on Saturday.



Boxing promoter, Don King (centre), raises the arms of boxing champions: WBC champion Mike Tyson (left) and WBA champion Bruce Seldon (right) after the weigh-in at the MGM Grand Gardens in Las Vegas. Tyson tipped the scales at 219 pounds and Seldon came in at 229 pounds (Reuters photo)

T O D A Y A T	CINEMA TEL: 634144 PHILADELPHIA JADE Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	CINEMA TEL: 699238 PLAZA The Arab Cinema Surprise Ahmad Zaki...in Naser 56 (Arabic) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:45, 11:00	CINEMA TEL: 677420 CONCORD CONCORD "1" Arnold Schwarzenegger & Vanessa Williams ...in ERASER Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD "2" MONKEY TROUBLE Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Ammoun Theatre & Cinema TEL: 618274 - 618275 Today presents Zawad Weld Awad theatre group in the play entitled Five-Star Government Starring comedians: Mahmoud Saimah & Hussein Tubeishat play starts 8:30 p.m.	Nabil & Hisham's Theatre TEL: 625155 PRESENTS THE SATIRICAL COMEDY Arab Human Rights At 8:30 p.m. For reservation please call 625155-640155
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Asian Basketball Championship

Jordan beats India, Bangladesh, plays for 9th place Monday

Jordanian player leads top scorers' list

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

THE KINGDOM'S Under-18 basketball team Saturday scored a convincing 89-74 win over India to secure a halfway standing among the 15-nation Asian Basketball Championship currently underway in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

An earlier 158-44 crushing win over Bangladesh and a 72-68 win over Hong Kong enabled the team to qualify to Monday's match deciding 9th and 10th places.

Up until Saturday's matches Jordan's Ayman Du'eybes was leading the top scorers' list among the competing teams.

Jordan had played in Group 3 alongside Qatar, the Philippines and Singapore in the first round. After only managing a win over Singapore they dropped out of contention for the semifinal round which included only the top two teams in each of the four groups.

The Kingdom's team first took part in the U-18 championship last year when they scored a major upset over hosts, the Philippines, to take third place and became the first Jordanian team to qualify to the World Championship.

The team beat the Philippines in the final second 72-71, Singapore 88-35, Hong Kong 71-24, Japan 73-56 and Thailand 62-56. They lost twice to eventual title-holders South Korea 75-61 and 69-51 and to second-placed China 88-49 in the semifinal round.

Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) officials noted that this year's participation was different and the team was less competitive for a host of reasons.

"The timing of the competition for mostly tawjihi players, the lack of funds, and the unavailability of an official training court prevented better preparation," explained JBF Chairman Awad Haddad. "Although, we couldn't achieve an advanced standing this time, I think we've gained a lot from participating in this Asian gathering," he added.

Haddad, who is also vice chairman of the Asian Basketball Confederation (ABC) noted that team coach Murad Barakat was chosen as assistant to ABC head coach Tom McCarthy. Hence Barakat will be attending a lecturing at all upcoming ABC clinics and seminars.

"It is a very good opportunity for a Jordanian coach to be selected to attend such events. It is a very encouraging fact," Haddad Saturday told the Jordan Times.

Jordan's team includes Tawfiq Marar, Iyad Abdeen, Ayman Du'eybes, Bashar Huneidi, Mrhef Nabulsi, Ala' Bilbeisi, Rafat Daraghmei, Mohammad Bashir, Motasem Salameh, Bassam Qamhihi, Nihad Madi, Leith Farouqi and Omar Abdallah.

The competing countries are Korea, India and Malaysia, China, Kazakhstan, Japan, and Bangladesh, Thailand, Chinese Taipei, Iran, Hong Kong, Singapore, Qatar, the Philippines and Jordan.

Manchester United crush Leeds despite Cantona miss

LONDON (R) — Eric Cantona missed a first-half penalty against his old club Leeds, but his Manchester United side still cruised to a 4-0 away win on Saturday to put their English title defence back on track.

Cantona, who walked out on the Yorkshire side in 1992 within months of helping them to the championship, sent goalkeeper Nigel Martyn the wrong way from the spot kick but rolled the ball wide of the post.

But the Frenchman, captain this season, made amends by scoring United's fourth goal in the final minute.

Earlier, a bizarre own-goal from Martyn, and

strikes from Nicky Butt and Czech international Karel Poborsky, set the defending champions on their way.

There were also 4-0 wins for Wimbledon and Middlesbrough, for whom Fabrizio Ravanelli scored his fifth and sixth goals of the season.

But no-one overhauled

Sheffield Wednesday at the top of the league, even though they lost 2-0 at home to Chelsea. It was their first defeat of the season.

Wednesday have 12 points from five games, with Chelsea one point behind in second place.

Results			
Aston Villa	2	Arsenal	2
Leeds	0	Manchester United	4
Liverpool	2	Southampton	1
Middlesbrough	4	Coventry	0
N. Forest	0	Leicester	0
S. Wednesday	0	Chelsea	2
Tottenham	1	Newcastle	2
Wimbledon	4	Everton	0

Playing Sunday: Sunderland V West Ham
Playing Monday: Blackburn V Derby

Antlers maintain lead in J-League

TOKYO (AFP) — Brazilian midfielder Rodrigo struck two late goals as front-runners Kashima Antlers defeated Cerezo Osaka 4-2 on Saturday to maintain their lead in the J-League football standings.

"I just did what I always do in practice. Everybody was a hero today," said Rodrigo, 20, who joined Antlers to fill the gap left by Leonardo after the Brazilian international joined Paris St. Germain in July.

The Antlers now have 13 wins against five defeats for 41 points, two points above Kashima Antlers. Nagoya Grampus eight and Yokohama Flügels.

Yugoslav captain Dragan Stojkovic sparked a comeback victory for Grampus as they defeated Sanfrecce Hiroshima 3-2 away.

Stojkovic, who created Yasuyuki Moriyama's equalizer in the 70th minute, hit home a penalty kick two minutes later for the decider after Tetsuya Okayama was brought down in the area.

Reysol stunned defending champions Yokohama Marinos 4-0 for their 11th straight win, while Yokohama Flügels outlasted JEF United Ichihara 2-0.

Kyoto Purple Sanga put an end to their humiliating J-League record of 17 straight defeats when they defeated Urawa Red Diamonds 1-0 with Brazilian Alexandre scoring the only goal in the 13th minute.

Two-time champions Verdy Kawasaki ran out 2-0 winners over Shimizu S-Pulse thanks to Japan's leading striker Kazu Miura's new J-League record 70th career goal and Brazilian newcomer

Magrao's fourth goal in three games in Japan. In other games, Jubilo Iwata suffered a setback as

they crashed to Bellmare Hiratsuka 3-0, while Avispa Fukuoka downed Gamba Osaka 1-0.

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No Agents Please

Graf joins Seles in U.S. Open final

NEW YORK (AP) — Forced to play a waiting game, defending champion Steffi Graf finally got her game into high gear Saturday to defeat 15-year-old Martina Hingis and return to the U.S. Open women's final for the fourth consecutive year.

With the 7-5, 6-3 victory, Graf will face Monica Seles in a replay of last year's title match. Seles won her semifinal on Friday, defeating fourth-seeded Conchita Martinez 6-4, 6-3 before rain halted play at the National Tennis Center.

Graf also won the year's final Grand Slam tournament in 1993 and lost the 1994 championship match to Arantxa Sanchez Vicario. Graf's first two U.S. Open titles came in 1988-89.

The Graf-Hingis battle began on Friday, only to be suspended in the second game with Hingis leading 1-0.

Graf, seeking her 21st Grand Slam tournament title, struggled early Saturday as Hingis forced her elder to wait. At the end of the changeovers, Graf was on the baseline, ready to play, while Hingis still was sitting in her chair.

The Swiss youngster surprisingly outplaying the world's top player early in the match, broke her opponent in the eighth game, then served for the set at 5-3. Graf saved the set point with a sharply angled forehand that Hingis returned weakly into the net.

Four points later, Graf had the service break back, but was not out of danger.

Hingis raced out to a 0-40 lead on Graf's serve, giving her three more set points.

Again Graf was up to the challenge, winning the next three points before she buried a backhand into the net, giving Hingis yet another set point — her fifth of the day.

When Hingis netted a forehand to end a long baseline rally, the No. 16 seed threw her racket, drawing a code violation for racket abuse. When she lost the next point on another unforced error, this time sending a backhand wide, she bounced her racket on the court.

Graf by now was in high gear, breaking Hingis again from deuce, then holding at love to close out the opening set.

ing set.

"All I was thinking was don't make too many easy mistakes," Graf said. "She was playing so well, really making no unforced errors, I knew there would have to come a point where she would start to make some mistakes, and that's what happened in the second set."

When Graf won the first two games of the second set, breaking Hingis in the opener at 30, the German right-hander had completed a six-game winning streak that sent her racing into Sunday's final.

Before that happened, though, Hingis made Graf wait one more time.

After Hingis held in the seventh game of the second set, she left the court to change her blouse. Graf shortly followed, then returned first, wearing a completely new outfit.

Graf complained to the umpire about the length of time Hingis was taking, then took a practice serve while Hingis was gathering up her racket, preparing to play.

Two games later, Hingis' semifinal trip was over and Graf had Seles on her mind.

When the U.S. Open decided to do away with "Super Saturday," they forgot to consider the weather.

In previous years, the men's semifinals were sandwiched around the women's title match on Saturday. This year, the women were supposed to get a day of rest before playing their finale on Sunday at a set time — not whenever a men's match finished.

But the plans failed to account for Hurricane Fran, which caused rain along the eastern U.S. Seaboard all day Friday and disrupted the U.S. Open schedule. That's why Seles had to wait until Saturday to find out who would be on the other side of the net.

Following Graf and Hingis onto the court were the men's semifinalists — second-seeded Michael Chang against No. 6 Andre Agassi, followed by top-seeded Pete Sampras against No. 4 Goran Ivanisevic.

With rain forecast for Saturday, officials were worried about getting all the matches in before Sunday's



Steffi Graf

scheduled finals. If any of the matches are rained out, the tournament will be extended until Monday.

Seles downs Martinez

Monica Seles did her part Friday to set up a repeat of last year's dream U.S. Open final. The rest was up to Steffi Graf.

The second-seeded Seles fought off feisty fourth-seeded Spaniard Conchita Martinez 6-4 6-3 to reach her fourth U.S. Open final.

"I'm just really happy to be in the final again," said Seles, a two-time open champion who Sunday will play her 12th career grand slam final.

Seles and Martinez met in last year's semis, but the 1994 Wimbledon winner gave Seles a much tougher time this year.

In nine meetings Martinez has yet to win a set from the co-world number one. Seven games is the most the Spaniard has won from Seles.

"I played good and I was aggressive sometimes and coming to the net and then suddenly she would come up with a great shot."

There's nothing you can do," said Martinez.

After the high-drama of Pete Sampras staggering to a gut-wrenching fifth-set tie-break win Thursday, the Seles-Martinez match could not help but be something of a letdown. And the spate of errors — 31 for Martinez and 24 for Seles — added to a feeling of anti-climax.

Playing under extremely windy conditions due to an approaching tropical storm may have contributed to the number of balls sailing long and wide. But neither player looked especially sharp in the first set, which at 49 minutes was nearly as long as some of Seles' previous matches.

"There were a lot of long points. It was a long time to play a two-set match," the Australian Open champion said.

Part of Seles' inability to keep the points short comes from a shoulder injury that has turned her serve from a weapon into a weakness.

"I served way too much in the 60s (miles per hour) and I used to be in the 90s," she said.

Even so, belting two-first-

ed groundstrokes from both wings and punctuating her shots with shrieks that grew louder as the match wore on. Seles never lost a service game.

Martinez failed to convert five break points in the first set and Seles dropped just three points on her serve in the entire second set.

Seles, who now has a 30-3 record in six U.S. Opens, broke Martinez in the first game of the match and, after saving four break points in the next game, maintained that advantage through the rest of the error-filled first set.

Martinez did a good job of moving Seles around, often sending her so wide that the Yugoslav-born American had to go to a one-handed forehand. But she could not put enough winners together to come up with the all-important service break.

In the third game of the second set, Martinez let a 40-0 lead slip away, putting Seles up a break early.

In a marathon seventh game, the Spaniard displayed some of the fighting spirit that had been missing from her game earlier in her career.

In a game that went to deuce seven times, Martinez fought off six break points, finally drilling a forehand down the line to keep Seles from serving for the set.

It was a valiant effort that just prolonged the match, however, as Seles held serve at love for 5-3.

Then came a letdown for Martinez as a series of forehand errors gave Seles the only match point she would need.

"That was a great way to end it," she said of the rapid-fire net exchange.

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